THE METRO EFFECT

City speeding up efforts to slow down Toronto's deadly streets

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Toronto metro

Your essential daily news | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2016 | High -4°C/Low -12°C Few flurries

Five bottles for five breeds of bosses

metroLIFE

CATASTROPHE

A Syrian boy leaves a rebel-held area of Aleppo towards the government-held side Tuesday during an operation by Syrian government forces to retake the embattled city. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Syrians in Toronto watch 'helplessly' as Aleppo descends into chaos

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IN A LANE OF HER OWN

Congratulations to Canada's athlete of the year

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ON THE ROAD TO TOLLS

Council endorses Tory's idea as mayor pushes for cities to control their 'destiny'

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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, December 14, 2016

TORONTO'S DEADLY STREETS THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Metro launched its Toronto's Deadly Streets campaign in June with the goal of making road safety a priority at city hall. This week, we look back on how far Toronto has come on the issue — **and the role our coverage played.**

Speed limits lowered on 14 streets

SLOWING DOWN The city identified a portion of Yonge south of Bloor as a priority corridor and moved to lower the speed limit to 40 km/h this year. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Toronto is speeding up its efforts to slow cars down.

Since June, the city has installed 400 new speed limit signs along 14 roads designated as "pedestrian priority corridors." In each case, the speed limit was lowered by 10 km/h.

It's work that wouldn't have been done until 2017 if the road safety plan hadn't been accelerated, said Roger Browne, the city's traffic safety manager.

"We're very supportive of the strategy of reducing speed on city streets," Browne said. "The lesser the speed, the more likely that if there's an incident, the pedestrian will live."

Numerous studies show that a pedestrian or cyclist hit by a car travelling at 30 km/h has a 90 per cent chance of survival. That number drops below 50 per cent if the car is travelling at 50 km/h.

Browne has been with the city for three years and, even in that short time, he's seen the perception around speed limits change.

In particular, there's growing recognition that lowering speed limits doesn't necessarily increase traffic congestion.

"What we're trying to do is curb speeding and aggressive driving," he said. "And that's different from the fluid motion of traffic."

Despite progress, safety advocates have been critical of the city for not lowering speed limits on major arterial streets outside the downtown. Roads like Eglinton, for instance — where eight pedestrians have been killed this year — have been left untouched.

However, Browne says that could change next year.

"We're not going to stop," he said. "We're going to look at the 2015 and 2016 data and identify more corridors that could be reduced in speed."

+ 44TH DEATH

A woman in her 60s was killed Tuesday afternoon when she was hit by a driver in Scarborough.

Police said the woman was hit on Midland Avenue near Finch about 2:40 p.m. She died on the scene. It marks the 44th pedestrian death in Toronto this year, which has been the worst for pedestrian fatalities since 2002.

<< THE METRO EFFECT >>

'Humanizing' road safety

Lawyer Patrick Brown, founder of Bike Law Canada, said Metro's Deadly Streets series "humanized" the issue of road safety and encouraged a broader call for safer streets.

"Following Metro's reporting, more individuals mobilized around the effort to bring change. Friends and Families for Safe Street came about. We were able to get meetings with the police, the Minister of Transport, and the Office of the Attorney General. The other media outlets woke up. Guys in my hockey dressing room were talking about road violence," he said.

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Pedal to the metal on tolls

REVENUE

Council votes in favour, but it's just one option for now

Toronto council has voted overwhelmingly to back John Tory's move to impose road tolls on the Gardiner Expressway and Don Valley Parkway. A final decision on imposing the tolls will not take place until next year.

The tolls are to pay for the cost of maintaining those routes and to fund transit projects. Council voted 32 to 9 to approve exploring the option in a vote late Tuesday night.

"We are now, I think, on the verge in the next few minutes, to, at least, begin to make a solid start on answering the question: How are we going to pay for the transit that we so badly need, to fix the traffic, and to make sure the economy stays strong?" Tory said just ahead of the vote Tuesday.

"I made an honest choice after careful consideration, an honest choice. Because the dishonest choice is to say, let's just do nothing and hope for the best."

Coun. Giorgio Mammoliti, left, and Mayor John Tory listen to a city council debate about road tolls Tuesday. DAVID RIDER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Although staff recommended council consider a much broader range of tools to raise badly-needed revenues, those options — including re-introducing the personal vehicle tax at up to $120 annually — were deleted by Tory's executive committee.

Several councillors tried to revive those taxes and fees as part of the budget conversation, but most of those attempts failed.

Other than tolls, the new measures council will now consider include a four per cent tax on hotel accommodations; up to a 10 per cent tax on short-term rentals such as Airbnb; increasing the tax for third party signs, and asking the province for a share of the harmonized sales tax (HST). Council also backed looking to harmonize the municipal and provincial land transfer taxes as well as cancelling a tax rebate for vacant businesses. Almost all of those measures require provincial sign-off.

A majority of councillors rejected looking at a municipal income tax or increasing property taxes to be in line with the GTA average.

Tory faced criticism over tolls both from suburban councillors wary their residents would roundly reject tolling and from centrist and left-leaning councillors that charging drivers doesn't go nearly far enough in solving the city's long-term financial challenges.

Several councillors representing Etobicoke, Scarborough and North York, including Tory's hand-picked Deputy Mayor Denzil Minnan-Wong, spoke warily of tolls, saying their residents wouldn't stand for it.

Councillor Stephen Holyday (Ward 3 Etobicoke Centre) said he wore his Etobicoke pin on the lapel of his black blazer to remind him who voted him into office."I'm going to be voting against these tolls to protect their interests," he said.

If ultimately approved, staff have estimated that tolls could be phased in starting in 2019 but would not be fully implemented until 2024.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Unusual pitch from Horwath

As Toronto council approves road tolls, Ontario's anti-toll NDP leader wants a meeting with Mayor John Tory to hash out other options to solve the city's revenue crisis.

Andrea Horwath made the unusual pitch to join Toronto's budget process on Tuesday — days after joining the Conservatives in condemning the toll proposal — by releasing a letter to Tory stating she respects municipalities' right to decide how best to raise revenues.

"However, I am concerned that an increasing dependence on flat and regressive fees — such as road tolls and transit fares — can have a disproportionate and unfair impact on struggling residents and marginalized communities," the letter states. "I know that by working together, we can find better funding options."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Andrea Horwath THE CANADIAN PRESS

POLITICS

Tory leads call for revenue tools

May Warren Metro | Toronto

Toronto Mayor John Tory is leading the charge for Canadian cities to have more independence on revenue tools as the debate over road tolls plays out at city hall.

Council endorsed his plan for road tolls on the Gardiner and DVP, Tuesday evening, despite objections from some suburban councillors.

The mayor penned an open letter Tuesday, signed by the mayors of Calgary, Edmonton, Ottawa and Vancouver, calling for cities to have more say in how they raise money for infrastructure.

The five cities face many of the same challenges, but need to go "cap in hand" to their respective provinces when looking for ways to cover the cost of things like transit and roads, Tory told Metro.

"If we want to change our socks it seems we have to go and ask for permission," he said.

Tory said there were some revenue tools he rejected before settling on a proposal to add road tolls to the Gardiner Expressway and Don Valley Parkway.

But measures like a municipal sales tax or a tax on booze were quickly scrapped, Tory said, because he knew he wouldn't get support from other levels of government.

Mayor John Tory EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

"I've discussed it with senior government people the notion of putting 50 cents on a bottle of alcohol and they just said no," he said.

"I didn't stomp my feet and walk away, I just felt it was very unfortunate."

Tory said he's not planning to reopen the debate on what revenue tools to use now. Rather, he's looking towards making it easier to adapt in the future.

Matti Siemiatycki, an associate professor in the department of geography and planning at the University of Toronto, said the letter "reflects the reality that cities across the country are facing" as expensive public services have been downloaded onto their backs.

"The revenue just hasn't kept pace with the significant increase on the large funding demands," he said.

The five urban centres banding together and "speaking with one voice" is an important sign of a growing strength within Canadian cities, he said.

THE RESPONSE

Metro asked the Ontario government for a response to Tory's letter.

In an email, Ministry of Municipal Affairs spokesperson Mark Cripps said the government is open to working with both the city and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario "to ensure any decision made reflects the best interest of communities" across the province.

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Squirrels brought an end to the tradition of lights at Mel Lastman Square.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Squirrel Scrooges vs. Christmas

BAH! HUMBUG!

Crafty critters wreak havoc on Toronto's lights displays

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Toronto's squirrels have gone Grinch.

From Mel Lastman Square to the Allan Gardens Conservatory, bushy-tailed bandits are wreaking havoc on public Christmas displays.

The city was forced to abandon plans to string lights on one of the trees in Mel Lastman Square this season, after squirrels repeatedly chewed through the wires. Floodlights now illuminate the trees from below, but it's not the same, says local Councillor John Filion.

> **The squirrel is not co-operating with our investigation.**
> Coun. John Filion

"There are one or more squirrels that are either anti-Christmas or so excited by the lights that they chew through the wires every time we put them up," Filion said.

The floodlights have locals saying bah humbug, and at least one person has called Filion's office to complain.

"We told him we're dealing with the squirrel problem, and he said 'I don't believe you' and got quite upset," he said.

The Ward 23 councillor is working to find some "squirrel-proof" lights for next year.

Over at the Allan Gardens Conservatory, city horticulturist Garth Armour says squirrels have snuck inside and gnawed on their Christmas lights as well.

"It's not a very costly problem, it's more of a nuisance," he said.

As for why the city's squirrels have decided to wage war on Christmas, it's anyone's guess, Armour said.

"They're inquisitive and ingenious little creatures."

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Security camera images of man wanted by Toronto police for vandalizing a downtown office. COURTESY TORONTO POLICE SERVICE

Vandal pours grey paint all over office

A suit-clad man is now 50 shades of wanted by police after allegedly walking into an office building on Dec. 9 and covering it, and himself, in grey paint.

"First I thought he had a three-piece suit on, but that's paint all over him," said Const. Caroline de Kloet of the Toronto Police Service.

"Quite the uproar to say the least."

The man, who is now wanted by police on break-and-enter and mischief charges was caught by security camera at the office in the financial district at 11 p.m., with paint smeared across his cheeks, abdomen and hands and his white shirt untucked.

> **I thought he had a three-piece suit on, but that's paint.**
> Const. Caroline de Kloet

Toronto police allege the man broke into the office of the unidentified building at the intersection of King and York streets, and smashed windows and bottles inside. At some point, de Kloet said, it appears he found, or took, a can of paint from somewhere else inside the tower — the surveillance footage shows he didn't enter the building with it — and poured it all over the inside of the office.

Altogether, the owners are dealing with at least $5,000 worth of damage. The exact value of damages isn't clear, but it's not hard to top that amount when it comes to furniture, said de Kloet.

"That's pretty easy if you're breaking a bunch of windows, bottles and putting paint everywhere," she said.

The man is described as about 5 foot 10 inches tall, between the ages of 19 and 25. He has a medium build and short, red hair.

With many holiday festivities in full swing and a Christmas tree in view behind the suspect in one of the security images, de Kloet didn't dismiss the possibility that the suspect could be a disgruntled employee leaving an office party.

"Who knows," she said. " 'Tis the season, right?"

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Trained workers walk away from daycare jobs

CRISIS

Wages too low to earn living, students say

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Alana Powell considers herself "privileged" to have made $30,000 a year at a Toronto daycare with a college diploma.
EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

Twenty-two-year-old Michelle Jones is young, highly qualified, and ready to work.

But she's not optimistic she'll ever be able to earn a living at what she spent years training to do.

"I think that I have a lot to bring to the field in working with children in the classroom, but I just can't afford to go back," said Jones, a master's student in early childhood studies at Ryerson.

Armed with a college diploma, Jones spent the last two summers working for minimum wage at a daycare as she finished her bachelor's degree. Convinced she'd never make it on what the job paid, she's now back in school with hopes of one day becoming a teacher.

Jones and a group of fellow students are leading a campaign to draw attention to the other side of Toronto's daycare crisis — young, well-trained people walking away from jobs they're needed for because wages are too low.

Jones, for instance, estimates only one or two of the 200 people in her undergraduate class have actually become childcare workers.

The province needs to step up and invest more in childcare so wages can increase without parents footing an even steeper bill, said third-year student Alana Powell.

Powell considers herself "privileged" to have made $30,000 a year at a Toronto daycare with a college diploma.

Instead of simply creating 10,000 new licensed childcare spots, a promise the Ontario government made this fall, Powell says it would be better to pump long-term sustainable funding into non-profit childcare centres, which typically offer higher wages.

The move would allow centres to reduce fees and increase pay, she said.

The Ministry of Education plans to meet with the Ryerson students "in the coming weeks," ministry spokeswoman Heather Irwin said in an email to Metro. She did not respond to a question about whether funding for the spots promised in September would go to non-profit or for-profit day cares.

For Powell, "something has to change" for early childhood educators or they're not going to be able to fill the jobs they're desperately needed for.

WITH FILES FROM GILBERT NGABO

COURTS

Unruly passengers get year's probation

Drunk and belligerent on duty-free booze, Milana Muzikante and Lilia Ratmanski smoked a cigarette in the bathroom of a Cuba-bound Sunwing flight promptly setting off the smoke alarm.

After they were ordered back to their seats by the crew, a male passenger reported overhearing Ratmanski make a bomb threat and Muzikante respond affirmatively.

The pilot didn't think the threat was credible — but out of caution decided to head back to Pearson airport.

Muzikante, then 26, and Ratmanski, then 25, were arrested upon landing amid the cheers of their fellow passengers and charged with mischief, smoking on a plane, uttering a threat to destroy an aircraft and endangering the safety of the Sunwing flight.

On Tuesday, more than two years later, the women were sentenced to a conditional discharge and 12 months of probation including 100 hours of community service. They pleaded guilty earlier this year to the least serious charges of mischief and smoking.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Five arrested over high school brawl

York Regional Police have charged four teens with assault causing bodily harm, and a 52-year-old man with assault, after a bloody high school brawl on Dec. 2 that was caught on video and shared on social media.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Woman struck by own vehicle in carjacking

A woman, believed to be in her 60s, who was the victim of a carjacking downtown was struck by her own vehicle as the suspect fled the scene Monday night, police say. She had injuries that were not life-threatening.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Local Syrians protested in front of the Russian Consulate in Toronto on Tuesday against the bombing of Aleppo.
EDUARDO LIMA/ METRO

Turmoil in Syria hitting home here

ALEPPO

Crisis 'like a nightmare' for Syrian in Toronto

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

The latest news out of Aleppo has been "like a nightmare" for Toronto's Bayan Khatib.

"It's basically a humanitarian catastrophe that doesn't seem to end," said the Syrian-Canadian whose family is originally from the city.

She has been "hopelessly" watching as the eastern part of the Syrian city descends into chaos as pro-government forces bomb areas previously under rebel control.

Khatib was among those who organized an emergency candlelight vigil outside the Russian Consulate on Tuesday evening, mourning those who have lost their lives in the latest developments and urging the international community to help end the crisis.

Earlier in the day, Russian officials announced the end to months of fighting in the city's eastern districts that were held by rebels.

But, prior to the announcement, the United Nations warned Syrian forces and their backers were gunning down civilians who were attempting to flee.

Nearly 100 civilians have been shot to death in targeted attacks and as many as 37,000 have fled eastern Aleppo, according to the UN reports.

"People have been trapped, medical centres have been bombed and majority of medical staff killed," said Khatib. "It's just shocking and upsetting."

As she and others continue to raise their voices for violence to end, Khatib said they're losing hope that anyone is listening.

"We've done these demonstrations hundreds of times. The Russians don't give a crap about what we say," she said, noting Canadian government's response is also disappointing.

"Issuing a statement once a year is really not enough in the face of what's happening before our eyes."

> **People have been trapped, medical centres have been bombed and majority of medical staff killed. It's just shocking and upsetting.** Bayan Khatib

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Mike Mallard spent Tuesday distributing marbles to people outside Holy Trinity Church in honour of one of his friends who died this year from the cold.
EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

Spreading good cheer

Man's Christmas spirit inspires

GENEROSITY

People moved to help him, but he wants to help homeless

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

People are stepping forward with offers to send Mike Mallard home for the holidays after he was profiled Tuesday in Metro.

"It would be a terrible shame if they couldn't be together for Christmas," said Tim Reynolds, who contacted Metro and offered to buy a plane ticket so Mallard could spend Christmas with his 91-year-old mother Marjorie in North Bay.

"I was touched by him reminding us all that Christmas and humanity starts and ends with the little things that brighten a day and can mean so much. "

For the past three years, Mallard has dedicated himself to collecting cans and using the deposit money to buy ornaments for an evergreen tree in a community garden near Dundas and George streets — a tradition born out of his passion for the season and a ban on trees at his rooming house nearby.

It was Mallard's comments about how the tree reminds him of his mother — and his family's love of Christmas — that touched Metro readers.

"As a mother, I'm sure his mother would be thrilled to see him," June Dunn wrote in her offer to help reunite the two. "I haven't got a lot of money, but I feel this is something I have to do."

Mallard called the messages heartwarming.

"It shows me there are still some good people in the city," he said during a Tuesday ceremony at Church of the Holy Trinity to remember homeless people who have died on the streets.

As much as he appreciates the generosity, Mallard said he'd rather have the would-be donors help some of the many people who are living on the streets.

"That would be so much better," he said. "But I'd also love to see my mom, even though she might force me to shave my beard which has taken me three years to grow."

KIND OFFERS

Many have contacted Metro to help to Mike Mallard. Here are a few:

I lost (my mother) two years ago and would give anything to see her again. In her memory I feel moved to help Mike see his mom again.
— Catharine

As a mother, I'm sure his mother would be thrilled to see him. I haven't got a lot of money but I feel this is something I have to do.
— June Dunn

I'd be very happy to meet this gentleman and offer him whatever help I can give. What he is doing with that Christmas tree is amazing. He deserves the support from all of us.
— Drupati Maharaj

ALLERGIES

New bakery, café an allergy-free paradise

They may not always be as palatable or win the most taste buds.

But gluten-free foods make it possible for many types of eaters to sit at the same table.

"A lot of people are allergic" to various foods, says chef Jean-Charles Dupoire, 43, who has recently become a gluten-free expert.

"It's something that's touching a lot of people. If we (chefs) don't react to that, that's a big crime on our side."

Enter Sorelle And Co., a quaint bakery and café situated in a picturesque heritage building at 1050 Rutherford Rd. in Vaughan.

This barely six-month-old shop offers an array of foods that are vegan and free of gluten, soy, nuts, dairy, egg, preservatives and even sesame. After realizing a lot of people were allergic to the tiny seed, "we decided to cut it as well," says Dupoire, Sorelle's culinary director.

When the owners, a group of investors, approached him earlier this year, he was ready for something new. The youngest child of one of the investing families has food allergies, Dupoire explains. Her parents aimed to create a place where the little girl, Rosemary, could eat without fear of having a reaction and everyone could enjoy a meal together.

"We want to open the door to everyone," Dupoire says.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Chef JC Dupoire of Sorelle and Co. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Eighteen-year-olds could legally buy pot

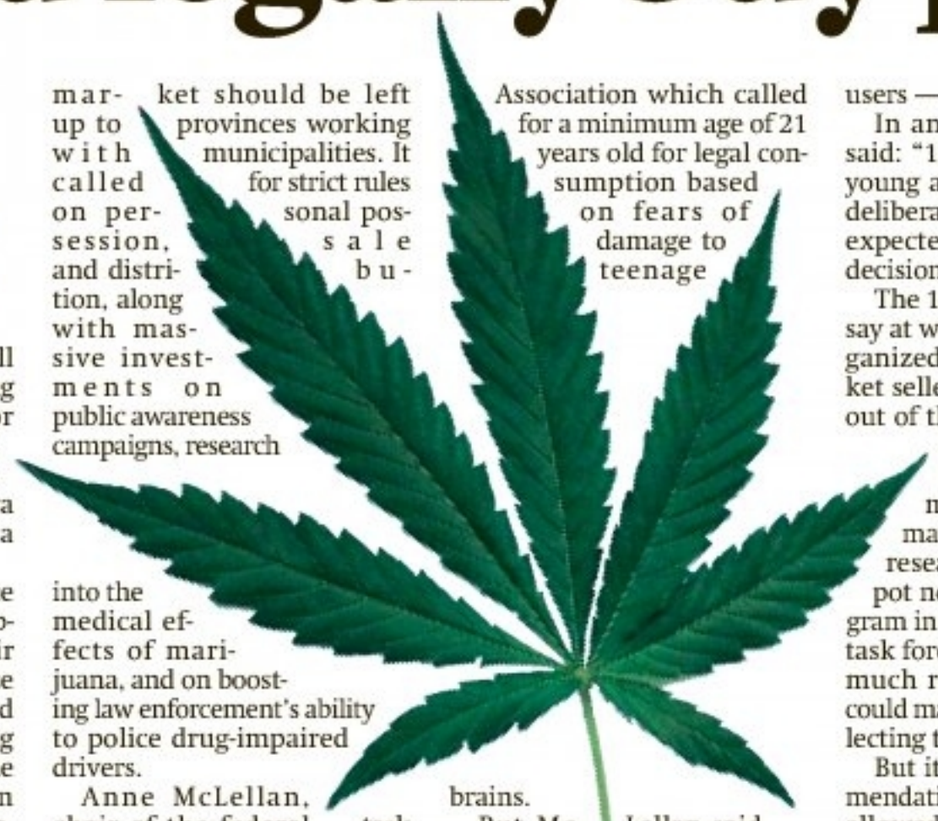
POLICY

Federal task force releases report planned on legalization

The federal government will bring in legislation next spring that could see storefront or mail-order sales of legal recreational pot to Canadians aged 18 and older if Ottawa adopts recommendations in a new report.

The report by a task force assigned to study how the Liberals could implement their campaign promise to legalize pot was released Tuesday, and said three provinces, including Ontario, may want to set the legal marijuana consumption age higher to match their minimal drinking age of 19.

Overall, the task force chair said regulation of many aspects of a new legalized marijuana market should be left up to provinces working with municipalities. It called for strict rules on personal possession, sale and distribution, along with massive investments on public awareness campaigns, research into the medical effects of marijuana, and on boosting law enforcement's ability to police drug-impaired drivers.



Anne McLellan, chair of the federal task force that released 80 recommendations Tuesday, said the panel "took into account" advice from the Canadian Medical Association which called for a minimum age of 21 years old for legal consumption based on fears of damage to teenage brains.

But McLellan said the report opted for a younger age to avoid the criminalization of the highest group of pot users — youth aged 18-25.

In an interview, McLellan said: "18 is the age at which young adults, and I call them deliberately young adults, are expected to be able to make decisions."

The 106-page report did not say at what price it expects organized crime or black market sellers would be squeezed out of the game, saying those questions will be up to provinces and commercial players in the marketplace. Generally its researchers assumed that pot now sells for about $8 a gram in the illegal market. The task force did not project how much revenue governments could make once they begin collecting taxes on legal pot sales.

But it made specific recommendations that individuals be allowed to legally possess 30 grams for personal use, or grow 4 plants in their own home, without having to face criminal sanction. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

People take selfies near Niagara Falls, newly illuminated by LED lights. JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Niagara Falls lights up

The nightly spectacle of Niagara Falls lit up after dark just got more spectacular.

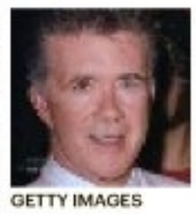
A $3-million upgrade saw the installation of 1,400 new high-tech lights called luminaires that beam brighter and more vivid rainbows of light from Canada onto the famous waterfalls.

Mixed together, the separate red, green, blue and white LED units can illuminate the waterfalls against the night sky in endless combinations that range from subtle hues to deeply saturated colours.

Perched on the upper level of an 1899 building known as "Illumination Tower," the high-intensity system unveiled Dec. 1 replaced a bank of 21 spotlights, each 30 inches in diameter, that were equipped with coloured gels.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alan Thicke dead at 69



GETTY IMAGES

Canadian TV icon Alan Thicke has died, his publicist confirmed Tuesday. He was 69.

According to reports, Thicke died of a heart attack Tuesday afternoon. He was most famous for his role as Jason Seaver, the father from '80s sitcom Growing Pains. He had been recently back on the screen as part of the Netflix reboot Fuller House.

Born in Kirkland Lake, Ont., Thicke was inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame in 2013. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Dems want fair inquiry

UNITED STATES

Concerned about probe into tampering in U.S. election

Congressional Democrats prodded Republicans on Tuesday to be aggressive and even-handed as lawmakers prepared to run investigations into U.S. intelligence assertions that Russia intruded into last month's elections to help Donald Trump win the White House.

In a written statement, No. 2 House Democrat Steny Hoyer of Maryland and the top Democrats on six House committees said they wanted a congressional probe of Moscow's interference "that is truly bipartisan, that is comprehensive, that will not be restricted by jurisdictional lines."

The Democrats said the analyses should produce "a complete and full accounting of what happened consistent with safeguarding our national security."

The statement seemed to suggest Democrats are wary that the planned investigations — by intelligence committees headed by GOP chairmen in both chambers — might not be as tough as needed, for fear of offending the Republican president-elect.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said Monday they backed investigations by each chamber's intelligence committee into the CIA's finding that Russia interfered with the election.

Ryan endorsed an investigation by the House Intelligence Committee into cyberthreats from other countries and extremist groups and condemned "any state-sponsored cyberattacks on our democratic process."

"Any intervention by Russia is especially problematic because under President (Vladimir) Putin, Russia has been an aggressor that consistently undermines American interests," Ryan said in a written statement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Japanese cargo ship Kounotori, or white stork, approaches the International Space Station with Christmas gifts Tuesday.
NASA VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TECHNOLOGY

Japan gives Santa competition in space

Christmas gifts arrived at the International Space Station on Tuesday, courtesy of Japan.

A Japanese cargo ship pulled up at the orbiting lab four days after launching. The capsule — called Kounotori, or white stork — contains nearly 5 tons of food, water, batteries and other supplies. NASA said there also are Christmas presents for the two Americans, three Russians and one Frenchman on board.

> **The vehicle is beautiful, and it performed flawlessly.**
> Cmdr. Shane Kimbrough

Commander Shane Kimbrough, an American, and France's Thomas Pesquet used the robot arm to grab the capsule 250 miles above Chile. Flight controllers in Japan and Houston applauded — and some of the Japanese even bowed. Kimbrough said the crew was "really excited" to accept delivery and radioed thanks to all.

"The vehicle is beautiful, and it performed flawlessly," he said.

Barely two weeks ago, a Russian supply ship was destroyed shortly after liftoff. At the same time, one of NASA's main suppliers, SpaceX, is grounded. So the Japanese delivery is especially welcome.

The astronauts need the six new lithium-ion batteries for next month's spacewalks. They will replace the old nickel-hydrogen batteries that store energy generated by the station's big solar panels.

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Goodbye from Aleppo

Aleppo's doctors, activists and residents bid emotional goodbyes in online videos and social media posts. They wanted to have the final say in the merciless civil war.

MONTHER ETAKY: This planet doesn't want people to live as free or to live as humans.

ABDULKAFI ALHAMDO: At least we know that we were a free people...We didn't want anything else but freedom.

BANA ALABED: My name is Bana, I'm 7 years old. I am talking to the world now live from East #Aleppo. This is my last moment to either live or die.

LINA SHAMY: Every bomb is a new massacre. Save Aleppo, save humanity.

First came the distress calls from doctors in underground shelters and morgues. Then residents under relentless bombardment in the few remaining blocks under rebel control in Aleppo began posting emotional goodbyes on social media and in widely circulated messages.

They wanted to have the final say in the merciless civil war.

"There is a problem with this planet," said Monther Etaky, a 28-year old graphic designer. "This planet doesn't want people to live as free or to live as humans."

The world's view of the Syria conflict has been largely driven by YouTube, Twitter and Facebook — making it one of the world's most documented wars through amateur videos and coverage. This has given the activists a major role in chronicling the war, and in lobbying for the world's response.

Nearly six years into the conflict, they complained the world has been looking the other way.

"Why is this silence? People are being eliminated," tweeted Abdulkafi Alhamdo, an English teacher who has been a vocal critic of President Bashar Assad's government. Then, he wrote: "The last (message). Thanks for Everything. We shared many moments. The last tweets were from an emotional father. Farewell #Aleppo."

A local aid worker who gave only his first name, Omar, sent an emotional recorded message that was widely shared on Whatsapp.

"The government forces are at the end of the street. Forgive us," he said in issuing a tormented apology for failing to protect the rebel enclave, once seen as the jewel of Syria's rebellion.

After four years of holding onto nearly half of what was once Syria's largest city and commercial centre, thousands of residents of rebel-held Aleppo had been cornered in a one-square-mile sliver of land for days as Syrian government troops, backed by Russia, resisted calls for a cease-fire, pushing into the territory as rebel defences crumbled.

Etaky said the fast buckling of rebel defences shocked him at first.

After months of siege imposed since July the rebels had no more power to go on, he said. With their families trapped in the city with them, many fighters left the front lines to tend to their relatives' safety.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A member of the Syrian government forces stands in a severely damaged street in eastern Aleppo Tuesday. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Rebels to evacuate in surrender deal

Syrian rebels reached a cease-fire deal to evacuate from eastern Aleppo in an effective surrender on Tuesday, as Russia declared all military action had stopped and the Syrian government had assumed control of the former rebel enclave.

The dramatic developments, which appeared to restore the remainder of what was once Syria's largest city to President Bashar Assad's forces after months of heavy fighting and a crippling siege, followed reports of mass killings by government forces closing in on the final few blocks still held by the rebels.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told the emergency meeting he had received "credible reports" of civilians killed by bombing and summary executions by pro-government forces.

As word spread of the deal, celebrations broke out in the government-controlled western sector of Aleppo, with convoys of cars driving around honking their cars and waving flags.

The UN human rights office said it had received reports of pro-government forces killing at least 82 civilians in the rapidly-shrinking rebel enclave, including 11 women and 13 children.

A spokesman said the reports described pro-government forces entering homes and killing civilians "on the spot." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Court File No. FS-14-396478

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UNITED STATES

As city falls, Trump faces test on co-operation with Russia

Aleppo's fall to Syrian government forces is shaping up as the first major test of President-elect Donald Trump's desire to co-operate with Russia, whose military support has proven pivotal in Syria's civil war. The death and destruction in the city is only renewing Democratic and Republican concern with Trump's possible new path.

Though Trump has been vague about his plans to address this next phase in the nearly six-year-old conflict, he's suggested closer alignment between U.S. and Russian goals could be in order. His selection Tuesday of Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson, who has extensive business dealings with Russia and ties to President Vladimir Putin, fueled further speculation that Trump will pursue a rapprochement with Moscow.

Indeed, Trump was already trying to portray Tillerson's connections with Russia as a plus. In talking points circulated on Capitol Hill and obtained by The Associated Press, Trump's transition team said Tillerson would "work closely" with Russia on "defeating radical Islam" but would "easily challenge Russia and other countries when necessary."

"President Putin knows Mr. Tillerson means what he says," the talking points say.

A warmer relationship could alter U.S. policy on nuclear weapons, sanctions, Ukraine and innumerable other issues — but none so clearly or quickly as Syria, where President Bashar Assad's defeat of U.S.-backed rebels in Aleppo is poised to be a turning point. Assad and Russia are expected seize the moment to try to persuade the U.S. to abandon its flailing strategy of trying to prop up the rebels in their battle to oust Assad.

That decision will fall to Trump.

The president-elect has not commented or tweeted about the crisis in Aleppo and widespread fears of humanitarian disaster. Yet his previous comments on the broader conflict suggest he's more than open to a policy shift.

During the campaign, Trump asserted that defeating Daesh in Syria, not Assad, must be the top priority, a position that mirrors Russia's.

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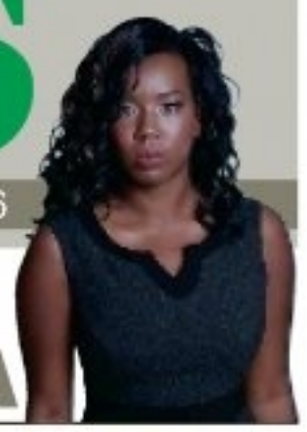


JESSICA ALLEN ON A CELLULOID OBAMA

As the real Barack prepares to hand the keys over to the man who led the birthers, the last eight years seem really nice, in retrospect.

This year has seen no shortage of biopics. Films like Lion, Loving, and Denial, have introduced some of us to heroes whose names and stories we didn't know. Others have tackled the more familiar lives of those who go by a singular moniker — think Miles, Nina, Jackie, Sully, and Snowden.

And then there's Barry, who now goes by Barack. POTUS is the subject of not one but two films released this year, both of which take place before he was POTUS, and one of which, Barry, will be released on Netflix on December 16. Set in 1981, when Obama transfers to Columbia as a junior majoring in political science and English, the film delighted me, along with an audience of 1,200, when it premiered in September during TIFF.

In our house, biopics are a hot topic. Simon refuses to watch them, but I love them. The irony is that we probably love and hate them for the same reasons; the depiction of a life, be it a single defining moment or a broad sweeping cradle-to-grave affair requires reducing, like a good spaghetti sauce. But Simon has little faith in the genre, so I wasn't surprised that he's expressed no interest in watching Barry.

"What about Primary Colors?" I asked, citing a movie I know he loves.

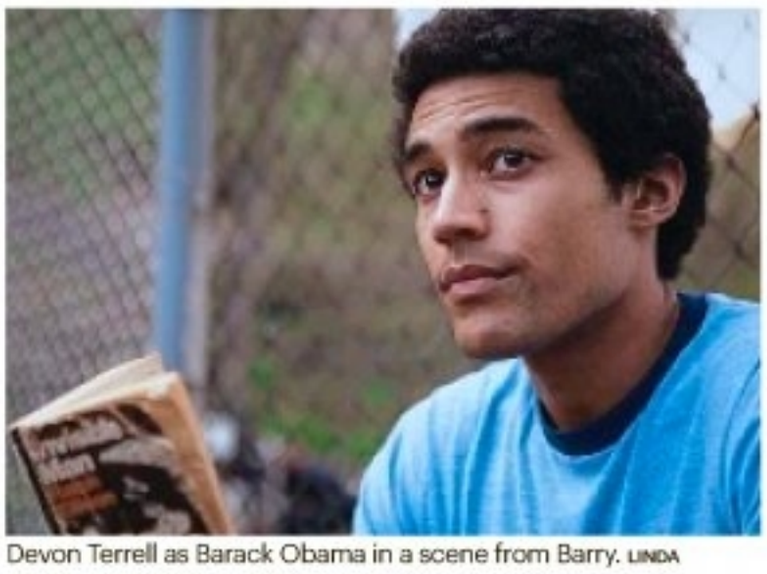
"That was different," he said. "It was a roman à clef."

I couldn't quite see how

Biopics are often as much about the past as they are about the present and even the future.

that mattered. Would the film's attempt to show the sordid, warts-and-all machinations of the political process be fatally undermined if John Travolta's character was called Bill?

The thing is, Barry is a nice movie. And as the real Obama prepares to hand the keys to the kingdom over to the man who led the public crusade for the release of his birth certificate, the last eight years are starting to seem really nice, too.



Devon Terrell as Barack Obama in a scene from Barry. LINDA KALLERUS/NETFLIX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Under his watch, same-sex couples gained the right to marry, the unemployment rate fell, as did the number of uninsured adults, and Osama Bin Laden was killed, journalist Stephen Marche noted almost a year ago in the Los Angeles Times. But not everything has come up roses: "Under an African American president, we've grown used to the fact that white police officers kill unarmed black civilians," he wrote. "Under a liberal president, the rich have gotten richer and the middle class has stagnated."

Yet "even as the world is beginning to tote up his legacies for the great pissing contest of op-ed history," Marche wrote a few weeks ago, in a piece called "The Obama Years" for the Los Angeles Review of Books, "I doubt anyone will be able to capture his saturation of our imagination."

He may be right. But Barry manages to capture something beautiful: meditative moments are weaved throughout the narrative that illuminate the life of a man trying to figure out who he is, where he comes from, and where he is going. Even scenes that foreshadow greatness aren't ham-fisted: when Obama meets the parents of a white woman he's dating, he slowly ascends stairs whose walls are lined with gilded-frame oil paintings of past presidents. When he picks up books from a street vendor, one is Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man, which he still cites as a favourite. Another is by W.E.B. Du Bois, the first African American to get a doctorate from Harvard, where Obama went to law school after his time at Columbia.

After the credits rolled and the filmmakers and cast walked on stage, the audience waited for Devon Terrell, the actor who had taken on the enormous task of portraying the president of the United States for his first feature film, to speak. And as he told us how he wanted to avoid caricature (he did), how he learned to write and play basketball left-handed, how he had an emotional connection to Obama because change the name and it could've been about him, we rustled in our seats with surprise upon hearing his voice. "I'm Australian by the way," he said.

"We really wanted to make sure that you could relate to Barry," director Vikram Gandhi said, "that you can glean something about race in America, and that even if you forgot who he would become, you'd still believe he would become someone significant."

But it was sometimes difficult to lose sight that Barry would become Barack, especially during a love scene that left a row of women directly behind me whooping and hollering, "Michelle isn't gonna like that," one of them said, assuming for a moment that she'll see it.

And maybe the Obamas will "Netflix and chill." Biopics are often as much about the past as they are about the present and even the future, even though the foreshadowing is not always intentional. When Barry's filmmakers, for example, conceived of the project and saw it through, they must've felt celebratory. Even back in September there were was a sense of elation in the audience. But now, the moment portrayed, and the last eight years, feel less like a celebration. They feel like an elegy.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

VICKY MOCHAMA

The term 'woke' is hereby put on ice until further notice

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today to say goodbye to "woke."

I'm not putting woke away out of meanness; I just want to save it from the same fate as "shade." A phrase from drag culture's rich lexicon, the mainstreaming of "shade" enriched the cultural landscape. At first. "Shade" now has a thriving career in being misapplied by news outlets desperate for millennial clicks. (The misuse of shade is being expertly adjudicated with tireless, if vexed, commitment by Jezebel's Kara Brown.)

Woke must be buried to save us from ourselves. We clearly don't know what words mean anymore.

Woke had a good run. Erykah Badu sang it in her 2008 song "Master Teacher," which birthed the current popular meaning of the word.

Woke had a quiet adolescence in being used mainly by Badu fans and tired people. But always, for Black people, wokeness meant staying alert to the injustices levelled at our bodies and communities, and continuing to resist the systems that perpetrated those injustices. After the 2012 murder of Trayvon Martin and the exoneration of his murderer, Black people on Twitter reminded each other to #staywoke.

Recently, former Fox News screaming chalkboard Glenn Beck has been described as woke. Writing for the New York Times he said, black lives matter, possibly, especially for the couple of black people he has personally met. (I'm paraphrasing but only to save you the time.)

This belief in the partial humanity of black people, added to a New Yorker interview in which he admitted to being influenced by Barack Obama, made some people believe that Beck was woke now. He is not.

Beck's media platform, The Blaze, continues to peddle the same shrill toxicity that his Fox News show once amplified. Tomi Lahren, a sort of Ann Coulter but blonder and less overtly racist, hosts a show for The Blaze. If Glenn Beck is woke, his work manages not to be.

Wokeness isn't be a badge to be shined; for black people, it's a mode of survival. And for white populations, it must be matched with a desire and actions to protect the most vulnerable and marginalized.

As the horrors of the Trump presidency are unveiled, people — by this, I largely mean white people — will awaken to the fact that Muslims and Mexicans are, indeed, human beings. They must not be allowed to claim wokeness. Rather than let it be diluted by mainstream (read: white) culture in the manner of a Disney movie, we must put woke into the vault.

Words lose their impact when they cease to mean anything. In the way that "alt-right" obscures hate, "woke" gives many people more credit than they've earned.

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Wonder Woman has been fired from her honorary ambassador job at the U.N. following protests about her suitability as a role model.

Holiday entertaining 911

You did everything right. You kept your guest list tight because you knew a dinner party with more than six people was too much. Then, the calls started. A friend's got a new boyfriend he is dying to introduce you to. Your sister's best friend is in town. And so on. Now your intimate dinner is a group of twelve. Do you panic and cancel the whole thing? Nah, you've got this. Or rather, we've got this. A smart menu and a few iron-clad rules and you'll be the host with the most.

CERI MARSH AND LAURA KEOGH

A secret weapon to leave them thinking you cooked all day

Roast Pork Tenderloin with Apples and Sweet Potato

Pork loin cooks quickly and takes on flavours beautifully. As your first guests arrive, pop it in the oven and by the time you're done with hors d'ouevres, it will be ready.

Ingredients:
- 1.25 – 1.5 kg pork loin
- 3 Tbsp Dijon mustard
- 3 Tbsp maple syrup
- 2 tsp thyme, finely chopped
- 2 Tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 1 large firm-fleshed apple, peeled, cored and chopped into 1/2 inch wedges
- 1 smallish sweet potato, peeled and chopped into 1/2 inch discs
- 1 onion, peeled and sliced into 1/4 inch rounds
- salt and pepper

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. In a small bowl, mix together 1 Tbsp dijon, 1 Tbsp maple syrup, 1 Tbsp vinegar. Assemble your fruit and veggies in two rows in a roasting dish. Brush the marinade over everything. Pop them in a hot oven for about 25 minutes.

2. In that same little bowl you're going to mix up 2 Tbsp of Dijon, 2 Tbsp syrup, 1 Tbsp vinegar and the thyme. Season your pork loin with a grind of salt and pepper, then brush this marinade all over it. Take the roasting pan out of the oven and place your loin in between the two rows of fruit and veg. You might have to nudge them apart a bit but it's fine if they overlap. Put it all back in the oven for 20 to 25 minutes. You want the internal temperature of pork to be between 140 and 145 degrees.

3. Take everything out and cover with foil and let the meat rest for about 10 minutes. Slice your meat and serve a couple of slices and a scoop of fruit and vegetables on each plate.

ISTOCK IMAGE, FOOD PHOTOGRAPHY BY MAYA VISNYEI

STAY CALM

Sweet Potato Chronicles' three rules to guarantee you make it through with your sanity intact:

Never swim alone
Or host. If you're married, divvy up the tasks with your spouse. If you're single, ask one of your guests to co-host with you. And bring dessert.

Don't make cocktails
It's just too hard when you're dealing with all the food. Serve Prosecco and beer before dinner and wine with dinner.

Set your music and lighting before guests arrive and don't touch them again.
You'll put people on edge if you're jumping up and down all night.

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Great bites from the cheat sheet to the baking sheet to the platter

Crispy Brussels Sprouts and Sweet Potato Tarts

All the elements of these little bites can be prepared in advance, warmed and then assembled giving your guests the perfect holiday bite.

Ingredients:
- 1 refrigerated pie crust
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 sweet potato, cut into 1/2 inch cubes
- 2 tablespoons of butter salt
- 2 cup Brussels sprouts, quartered
- 2 tablespoons pomegranate seeds
- 1 teaspoon fresh rosemary

Directions:

1. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. Place pie crust on floured work surface. Using a 1 1/2 inch cookie cutter, cut out 24 rounds; transfer to prepared sheet, spacing 1/2 inch apart. Place in freezer until dough is firm.

2. Preheat the oven to 400. Toss sweet potato with 1 tablespoon of olive oil and sprinkle with salt. Roast in the oven until fork tender, about 20 minutes. Mash potatoes and then mix in butter. Do ahead and store in an airtight container in the refrigerator.

3. Toss Brussels sprouts with remaining tablespoon of oil and salt. Roast in the oven at 425 until browned and tender, about 25 minutes. Do ahead and store in an airtight container in the refrigerator.

4. When you're ready to assemble, preheat oven to 400. Bake crusts until light golden. Transfer to platter.

5. Re-warm sweet potato on the stove top. Crisp sprouts in the oven. Once your vegetables are warm begin assembling by adding a teaspoon of potato to each tart. Top with sprouts and a few pomegranate seeds. Sprinkle the tarts on the platter with rosemary.

To meet grape expectations get groundwork in the night before

Grape and Parmesan Flatbread Pizza

This sweet and salty bite tastes great warm or at room temperature. Either way, you can prepare your flatbread the night before and have it ready to roll.

Ingredients:
- 2 tbsps olive oil
- 10 to 12 seedless grapes, sliced lengthwise
- 1 cup Parmesan or Fontina cheese, grated
- 2 handfuls of arugula

Directions:

1. Preheat your oven to 450 degrees. Place your flatbread on a baking sheet. Brush the flat bread with olive oil. Sprinkle the cheese evenly over the flatbread. Top that with a scattering of grapes.

2. Bake for about 5 to 10 minutes until cheese melts and grapes begin to blister.

3. Remove from the oven and top with arugula and sea salt and pepper. Slice into thin pieces.

Rope in the early arrival for a zesty palate-setter

Pears with Goat Cheese and Cranberries

You know how there is always one person that come too early to the party. Well, this is the easy little assembly job you have them do while you finish getting ready.
Of course, you'll pour them a drink first.

Ingredients:
- 2 pears, cored and cut into two dozen slices
- 1 tablespoon orange or lemon juice
- 1/2 cup goat cheese
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 2 tablespoons pistachio pieces
- 2 tablespoons cranberries

Directions:

1. Core pears and cut into slices. Toss in orange or lemon juice to keep from browning.

2. Mix cheese with honey then spread cheese on widest part of pear slice. Shower cheese with cranberries and some pistachio pieces. Arrange on platter and serve.

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5 WINES FOR WHATEVER TYPE OF BOSS YOU HAVE

Face it. You can't buy your boss a piece of clothing (too personal) or cologne (too allusive). But you can never go wrong with a bottle of wine. So to help you wrap up your gift game, we've paired five bottles to five breeds of bosses. See if you can find yours on the list. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1 Young and restless boss

2015 Big Bill Ridiculously Big Cabernet Sauvignon, Western Cape, South Africa (LCBO 457119, $12.95, in stores only)

If your boss is under 35 and recently discovered the glories of fermented grape juice, thrill him or her with this red — it's a bit of a big deal. Not only does it sport a funky name and cool label, it tastes amazing, with loads of ripe, opulent fruit layered with notes of bonfire, cigar, baking spices. This bottle was made to honour William "Big Bill" Millar, the boxing champ, war hero and first GM of this wine's winery, KWV. **Score: 89+**

2 Praise-happy boss

Santa Margherita Brut Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore, Veneto, Italy (Vintages Essential 687582, $18.95 reg., $16.95 till Dec. 30)

You know the boss whose eagerness to praise knows no bounds? The one who lives for small successes, publicly applauding everything. Resist the urge to give him or her a box of shiny stars and instead give something to toast the next achievement. So give a bottle or two of this delicious, dry, pear-and-seaspray-scented Prosecco and be done with it. **Score: 94**

3 The Devil Wears Prada boss

NV Paul Dangin & Fils Brut Cuvee Carte Blanche Champagne, France (Vintages 450460, $51.95, in stores only)

To impress this bejewelled boss, you need something so profoundly stylish that only those in the know would see it for the gem it is. The find? This beautiful Blanc de Blancs Champagne, which Maxim's of Paris has been serving for years (with Maxim's labelling of course). Pierced by a delicate string of tiny, persistent bubbles and brimming with aromas and flavour of the best-ever apple crumble edged with salted nuts, this wine is drop-dead gorgeous. Paul Dangin & Fils also supplies Champagne to the British royal household by appointment from Her Majesty the Queen.
Score: 94

4 Creative genius boss

2013 Big Smooth Old Vine Zinfandel, California (Vintages 470179, $24.95, in stores only)

If you work for a creative genius, odds are they didn't move up the ranks by MBA skills alone. So give a bottle that's both smart and scrumptious — such as The Big Smooth, which just hit shelves. The leg-lamp label symbolizes the holidays because it's a prop from A Christmas Story; the plum velvet label mirrors the wine's flavour and texture; and the wine's instant appeal, complexity and polished purity of fruit says you know your stuff. Best part? None of this will be lost on the recipient. **Score: 91**

5 Button down boss

2010 Montecillo Rioja Reserva, Rioja, Spain (LCBO 621003, $18.15)

If your boss is the buttoned-down type, s/he no doubt has a built-in, knee-jerk, deeply-ingrained appreciation of the classics. And this traditional Rioja Reserva, with six years of age on it, is sure to please and offers exceptional value for money. It's sleek glossy texture slides across the palate then broadens and deepens almost instantly to reveal rich but bone dry flavours of black cherry and black raspberry edged with vanilla bean, milk chocolate, coffee bean, toasty oak and toffee. A lovely chalky-texture on the finish holds the flavour intact for ages. You'll want to buy one for yourself, too. **Score: 92**

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Writing jokes just for you — word police play it forward

THE SHOW: Brooklyn Nine-Nine, Season 4, Episode 9 (Fox/City)
THE MOMENT: The reporters' names

Peralta and Holt (Andy Samberg and Andre Braugher) are a 21st-century version of Laurel and Hardy. CONTRIBUTED

Hyperactive cop Jake Peralta (Andy Samberg) and his deadpan captain Ray Holt (Andre Braugher) are watching an unqualified colleague get a commendation because, Peralta says, they "overmined" him — gave him credit he didn't deserve. Holt winces at "overmined."

"You know I hate when you make up words," he says.

"Are you still mad at me for saying 'snaccident'?" Peralta asks.

"Yes. Very," Holt replies.

Peralta looks around at the crowd of reporters. "Even The Times is here," he says.

"Really? Who'd they send?" Holt asks, then fires off, "Wilson? Palmer? Schneider? Levine? Rogers? Tyler? Baker? Schmidt?"

"Stop saying reporters' names," Peralta says. "How do you know so many names?"

"They're the only real rock stars we have left," Holt says.

You know you're invested in a TV show when you feel like they're writing jokes just for you. This particular exchange was like an early Christmas present with my name on it.

Not only are Peralta and Holt a 21st-century Laurel and Hardy, with a delivery that's like a well-oiled lock and key. Not only did I laugh a long time at "snaccident."

But then Holt — still perfectly within the established parameters of his character, mind you — tossed that lovely bone to us hangdog newspaperfolk, who are reluctantly watching our lights go out all over North America.

This show is allegedly about cops, but really it's about wordplay. The writers (and their hyper-articulate characters) are drunk on it. And this highly specific shout-out is their toast to reporters, their comrades in type.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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REVIEW

WRX STI has high level of driving engagement

Jodi Lai
AutoGuide.com

Subaru people are among the most vocal in the world of automotive fandoms about how much they love their cars.

I've driven practically the whole lineup of Subaru cars, and while they are very decent vehicles, I was never overwhelmingly impressed by them. They were good, but not the best. The Subaru fandom always left me a bit confused, and I assumed they adhered to some sort of cult mentality with their blind faith in a quirky brand.

That's until I finally got to drive the 2017 Subaru WRX STI, which may have made me into a convert.

After spending some quality time with the sedan, I am now able to fully understand the draw of the STI. The beautiful thing about it — and let's not kid ourselves, it's not how it looks — is how it makes you drive like a teenager who has nothing to lose. There's a level of driving engagement that is pretty much unmatched by anything else in its price range. It's impossible not to have fun when driving it, even when you're going slow. Cars like this are really rare, and I was actually really surprised by how giddy I felt driving it.

The one thing that people might not like about this car is that drama. Nobody is going to see this car and assume a responsible adult is driving it. Passersby and law enforcement will notice the huge hood scoop and comically large wing sitting on the trunk, hear the exhaust's aggressive cracks and burbles, and see someone who's looking for trouble. I think that's all part of the fun. Sleepers have their place in the world, but I'm just so entertained by the constant drama surrounding this car.

The fun starts with the powertrain, a turbocharged 2.5-litre boxer four-cylinder and permanent full-time all-wheel drive. The engine puts out 305 hp and 290 pound-feet of torque, and the STI is one of the only cars that is still exclusively available with a manual transmission. This six-speed manual is great to use, with short and precise throws (it's much better than the one in the WRX). The gearing for first and second are a bit short and you'll hit redline in no time, so I wish those gears were a little bit taller, but it's not a deal-breaker.

The brakes are sharp, the clutch is the right weight and feels intuitive to use and the steering is also fantastic, heavy, dialed-in and responsive, and quicker than WRX. Off-the-line acceleration is freaky fast, though not drag strip fast, and max torque is available as early as 2,000 rpm. There is a wee bit of turbo lag, but the car feels light, and like it's always ready to throat-punch you, but is also entirely manageable at the same time.

I finally understand what Subaru fanboys are always going on about.

THE CHECKLIST | 2017 SUBARU WRX STI REVIEW

THE BASICS

Engine: 2.5L turbo four-cylinder
Power: 305 hp, 290 lb-ft
Transmission: Six-speed manual
Fuel Economy (L/100 km): 13.8 city, 10.2 hwy
Price: Starts at $40,795 (for Sport model)

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How to store your car for the winter

ADVICE

These tips will keep your vehicle in tip-top shape

Dan Ilika
AutoGuide.com

Keep your car covered and away from the elements and you'll thank yourself come spring. ISTOCK

It's December, a dreaded time of year for classic and sports car owners living where the mercury drops and the white stuff falls.

Attachment issues aside, there's no better way to protect your ride from the elements than keeping it out of them altogether. With that in mind, here are eight helpful tips to get your car ready for its winter hibernation.

Store it somewhere dry

While leaving your car outside is certainly an inexpensive storage option, it defeats the purpose of taking your ride off the road for the winter months. That's where a garage comes in handy — and preferably a climate-controlled one with a concrete floor.

If it's just not realistic to boot your daily driver out of the garage for the next four months, paying for indoor storage is a worthwhile endeavor. A good facility will charge as much as a few hundred dollars a month, which may seem steep, but it's a small price to pay in the short-term to protect your vehicle from lasting effects of inclement weather.

Change the fluids

Before you put it away, it's important to change your vehicle's fluids. Everything from the engine oil and filter to the coolant — and even the gas — should be replaced with clean stuff to reduce the potential for harmful contaminants floating around vital components.

Flushing the brake system is recommended, though not required, as brake fluid has a longer life than oil and gas. A full tank of gas should be supplemented by a bottle of fuel stabilizer, but don't just leave it at that. Take your chariot on a farewell tour to run the stabilizer throughout the entire fuel system.

Put it away clean

So you've driven your beloved ride one last time. The next step is to get it ready for storage with a thorough cleaning. Hand-washing and waxing isn't just therapeutic; it also provides an extra layer of protection against corrosion and damage to the paint and exposed components. A thorough detail job inside and out won't hurt either, and will leave your ride road-ready come spring. Once it's all spick and span, close the windows and put some boxes of baking soda — yes, the same kind that you would put in your refrigerator — in the cabin and cargo area to absorb moisture.

Keep the critters at bay

Insects and small animals like mice love to find cosy places to settle down for the winter, so don't let it be your classic or sports car's cabin or engine bay. Make sure all the doors and windows are sealed tightly, and wrap up the exhaust and air intake to keep pests from crawling inside.

Steel wool can also be stuffed inside the exhaust and intake if you so choose, but don't push it in too far or you'll be fighting to get it out in the spring. Once that's done, put a quality car cover on it.

Prop it up on jack stands

This step may seem a little on the extreme side, but it's an important one — especially if the vehicle is going to sit stationary for weeks on end. Leaving the car on its tires for a prolonged period can lead to flat spots, particularly if it's fitted with retro bias ply tires or softer radials.

Start by placing wheel chocks behind the tires and loosening, but not removing, the lug nuts while the vehicle is firmly on the ground. Next up is to raise the vehicle one end at a time using a floor jack rated for the weight of your vehicle. Once the front or rear of the vehicle is in the air, place at least two jack stands rated for the weight of the vehicle under safe lift points and lower the vehicle to rest on them.

Do the same for the other end of the vehicle, and, once the vehicle is resting completely on the jack stands, finish loosening the lug nuts and remove the wheels.

Store them in bags on their sidewalls in a climate-controlled area like a garage or basement.

Don't leave the parking brake on

If you don't want to keep your car on jack stands for the winter months, instead of leaving it to rest on the tires, resist the urge to engage the parking brake. Whether equipped with an automatic or manual transmission, place wheel chocks behind the tires and leave the parking brake disengaged. Engaging the brake can lead to fused and ceased brake components or snapped cables, costly and time-consuming fixes come spring.

Protect the battery

Whether the vehicle is in the air or resting on its wheels for the winter, do what you can to prolong the life of the battery. Either remove and store it separately — preferably on a shelf in a climate-controlled environment — or hook it up to a battery tender.

Batteries aren't cheap, and the phantom load created by the vehicle sitting for months with the battery hooked up can quickly sap all the life out of one. Worst case scenario, disconnect the cables from the terminals and wrap them in plastic while the vehicle is stored.

DON'T START

- Use whatever willpower you have to avoid hopping in and starting the engine — unless, of course, you plan on driving it. Idling the engine for any length of time will do more harm than good, and it's best to fight the urge and leave the keys in the cabinet.
- Taking it for a drive, even on an unseasonably warm day, is not recommended, if for no other reason than the fact you'll just have to repeat the storage tips outlined above. Good things come to those who wait, as the old saying goes, and the spring has plenty of good in store for your beloved ride.

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Limited time offers available through Honda Financial Services Inc. (HFS), to qualified retail customers on approved credit. ΩRepresentative lease example: 2016 Fit EX-L Navi CVT (Model GK5H8GKN) // 2016 HR-V EX-L 4WD CVT (Model RU6H7GKN) on a 24-month term with 24 monthly payments at 0.99% lease APR. Monthly payment is $450.08 // $586.72 with $0 down or equivalent trade-in and $0 total lease incentive included. Down payments, $0 security deposit and first monthly payments due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $10,801.85 // $14,081.24. 48,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. PPSA lien registration fee of $18.81 and lien registering agent's fee of $5.65, due at time of delivery are not included. †Representative finance example: 2016 Fit EX-L Navi CVT (Model GK5H8GKN) // 2016 HR-V EX-L 4WD CVT (Model RU6H7GKN) with a selling price of $24,635.40 // $31,965.40 (includes freight, PDI, levies, OMVIC fee, and PPSA; excludes licence and HST) on a 24-month term at 0.99% APR, the monthly payment is $1,037.09 // $1,345.67. Finance amount is $24,635.40 // $31,965.40. Cost of borrowing is $254.76 // $330.68 for a total finance obligation of $24,890.16 // $32,296.08 with $0 down or equivalent trade-in. ‡$3,000 // $3,500 Holiday Bonus applies to retail customer agreements for new 2016 CR-V // 2016 Accord Coupe models concluded between December 1st, 2016 and January 3rd, 2017. Bonus is comprised of $1,500 // $1,500 customer incentive which is deducted from the negotiated price after taxes (can be combined with advertised lease and finance rates); plus $1,500 // $2,000 non-stackable customer cash which is deducted from the negotiated price after taxes (available for Honda retail customers except customers who lease or finance through HFS at a subvented rate of interest offered by Honda as part of a low rate interest program. All advertised lease and finance rates are special rates). ^$1,500 // $1,500 Holiday Bonus offer will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes and can be combined with advertised lease and finance rates and applies to retail customer agreements for new 2016 HR-V // 2016 Fit models concluded between December 1st, 2016 and January 3rd, 2017 at participating Ontario Honda Dealers. For all offers: licence, insurance, PPSA, other taxes (including HST) and excess wear and tear are extra. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. Offers only valid for Ontario residents at participating Ontario Honda Dealers. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer trade may be necessary. Colour and trim availability may vary by dealer. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. Offers, prices and features subject to change without notice. See your Ontario Honda Dealer or visit HondaOntario.com for full details.

Safety features you didn't know existed

TECHNOLOGY

Cars have come a long way when it comes to risk

Brooks Harvey
AutoGuide.com

Over the past hundred years, automakers have taken many steps to advance safety technology, making sure you get where you need to go safely.

Most people already know about things like seat belts and airbags, but there are some lesser known features out there that are keeping you safe without you even knowing it.

Brake Shift Interlock

Since 2010, all vehicles in the U.S. with an automatic transmission have come with a brake shift interlock. This system prevents the car from going into gear without the brake being applied, which is designed to prevent rollaways when the gear selector is inadvertently knocked out of place.

SAME FEATURE

- When it comes to Driver Drowsiness Detection systems, some manufacturers have their own systems, so the specifics will vary.
- Nissan's is called Driver Attention Alert, Volkswagen has Fatigue Detection system, and Mercedes-Benz has Attention Assist, to name a few.

Transmission Locked in Park if Brake Light Burns Out

Brake lights are a very well-known vehicle safety feature that have been used for decades to warn drivers behind you that you're slowing down.

Driving without brake lights can be very dangerous, so if your car is in park and a brake light switch or fuse isn't working, the transmission will lock in park to prevent you from driving. The brake light switch sends a signal to the shift interlock solenoid when the brake pedal is depressed, which causes the interlock to release, but not if the switch is burnt out. This results in the shifter being stuck in park. This feature is present on many car models, such as the Nissan Pathfinder and Altima, for example.

Beyond the seat belt: from brake shift interlock to driver drowsiness detection, today's vehicles are full of features to keep you safe. ISTOCK

Mercedes Pre-Safe Sound

When a car gets T-boned, a lot of pressure changes happen in the cabin, which can cause damage to your ears. The new Mercedes-Benz E-class has a technology called Pre-Safe Sound that protects your ear in this scenario. The E-Class detects when a collision is imminent, and then its stereo sends a "short interference signal," which is basically a loud tone, just before the crash to trigger the ear's reflex, causing a muscle in your ear to contract. This effect essentially helps your ear mute itself against the high-pressure sounds of the crash and airbag deploying.

Ford F-150 Wheel Blockers

All new Ford F-150s have high-strength steel bars in front and behind the wheel well to reinforce the wheel well in the event of a small overlap accident: If the wheel wells are stronger, it protects passengers.

Driver Drowsiness Detection

Some vehicles are so advanced that they can even tell when drivers are dozing off or getting too tired to drive. Driver Drowsiness Detection has been available for a few years now, and essentially detects signs that the driver might be falling asleep, and takes steps to wake them back up or suggest they take a break from driving.

Most of these systems monitor a few main factors to decide if drivers are alert or not: steering patterns, if the vehicle is drifting out of lanes, and also keeping tabs on the driver's eye/face movements. If drivers aren't making enough steering corrections over a certain amount of time, if they are swerving around in the lane too much, or if their eyes are starting to squint and close, the vehicle will make loud beeping noises and set off alarms to wake up a driver or encourage them to stop the car and take a break.

*Selling price is $31,775 // $37,175 // $42,875 // $50,375 on a new 2017 Acura ILX (DE2F3HJX) // model shown, a 2017 ILX Tech (DE2F7HKNX) // a new 2017 TLX SH-AWD® Base (UB3F3HJ) // model shown, a 2017 TLX SH-AWD® Elite (UB3F7HKN). Selling price includes $2,045 freight and PDI, EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), air conditioning fee ($100) and OMVIC fee ($10). License, insurance, registration and taxes are extra. ‡Limited time lease offer based on a new 2017 Acura ILX (DE2F3HJX) // model shown, a 2017 ILX Tech (DE2F7HKNX) // a new 2017 TLX SH-AWD® Base (UB3F3HJ) // model shown, a 2017 TLX SH-AWD® Elite (UB3F7HKN) available through Acura Financial Services on approved credit. Representative lease example: 1.9% // 1.9% (2.98% effective APR) // 1.9% // 1.9% (2.67% effective APR) lease rate for 48 months (104 payments). Bi-weekly payment is $158 // $180 // $188 // $236 with $1,200 // $3,250 down payment. 16,000 km allowance/year; charge of $0.15/km for excess kilometres. Total lease obligation is $17,632 // $18,920 // $22,802 // $27,794. Offer includes EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), air conditioning fee ($100), OMVIC fee ($10), PPSA ($37) and Holiday Bonus ($2,000 // $2,500). License, insurance, registration, options, duties and taxes are extra. PPSA lien registration fee and lien registering agent's fee are due at time of delivery. $2,000 // $2,500 Holiday Bonus includes applicable sales taxes. ◊$3,000 // $3,500 Cash Rebate (CSB) is available on new 2017 Acura ILX Premium (DE2F7HJNX), Tech (DE2F7HKNX), and A-Spec (DE2F8HKX) // new 2017 TLX SH-AWD® Tech (UB3F5HKN) and 2017 TLX SH-AWD® Elite (UB3F7HKN) models when registered and delivered before January 3, 2017. Total incentives consist of: (i) $1,000 // $1,000 that cannot be combined with lease/finance offers; and (ii) $2,000 // $2,500 Holiday Bonus that can be combined with lease/finance offers. All incentives will be deducted from the negotiated selling price after taxes. ◊◊$2,000 // $2,500 Holiday Bonus is available on all new 2017 ILX // 2017 TLX SH-AWD® models when registered and delivered before January 3, 2017. Holiday Bonus can be combined with lease/finance offers and will be deducted from the negotiated selling price after taxes. †††Winter tires offer is available on any new and previously unregistered 2016 or 2017 ILX // TLX L4 // TLX SH-AWD® model that is purchased, leased, or financed from an authorized Acura retailer in Canada between December 1, 2016 and January 3, 2017. Offer consists of a maximum rebate of up to $850 // $850 // $1,000 that can be applied only at the time of initial purchase/lease/finance towards any 2016 and 2017 ILX // TLX L4 // TLX SH-AWD® winter tire package (includes: 4 specified winter tires — but does not include rims or any costs associated with installation). Rebate will be deducted after taxes and can be combined with other offers (including special lease and finance rates). Any unused portion may not be banked for future use. Offer is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Some terms/conditions apply. Models shown for illustration purposes only. Offers end January 3, 2017 and are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. While quantities last. Certain features only available on certain trims. Visit acurayrle.ca or your Acura dealer for details. © 2016 Acura, a division of Honda Canada Inc.

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2016 JEEP CHEROKEE NORTH FWD – BEST-IN-CLASS CAPABILITY[1]

Starting From Price for 2016 Jeep Cherokee North shown: $32,290.◊

$165 @ 1.99% BI-WEEKLY FINANCING➤ FOR 96 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN

THAT'S LIKE PAYING ONLY $83 A WEEK!

OR CHOOSE **0%** FINANCING† FOR 84 MONTHS ON MOST MODELS

AND GET **$1,500** IN TOTAL DISCOUNTS^■ ON MOST MODELS

- Heated front seats, steering wheel & exterior mirrors
- Uconnect® 8.4 Multimedia Centre
- Hands-free communication with Bluetooth® & SiriusXM™ satellite radio
- ParkView® Rear Back-up Camera
- Remote Start System

LEASE A VERY WELL-EQUIPPED 2017 RAM 1500 CREW SPORT 4X4!

FROM

$369 MONTHLY†† @ **0%** FOR 39 MONTHS WITH $1,999 DOWN/$500 SECURITY DEPOSIT ORDER MAY BE REQUIRED

THAT'S LIKE PAYING ONLY $85 A WEEK!

Starting From Price for 2016 Ram 1500 Sport with Performance Hood shown: 42,135.◊

- Uconnect® 8.4 multimedia centre with 8.4-inch touchscreen (NAV-ready)
- ParkView® Rear Back-up Camera with view-at-speed capability
- 20-inch polished aluminum with silver painted pockets
- 5.7 HEMI® VVT V8 engine with FuelSaver MDS
- Body-colour front fascia, rear bumper and grille
- Park-Sense® Rear Park Assist System
- Sport Performance Hood
- Remote start system

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+Your local retailer may charge additional fees for administration/pre-delivery that can range from $0 to $1,098 and anti-theft/safety products that can range from $0 to $1,298. Charges may vary by retailer.

CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep. RAM

chryslercanada.ca/offers

Wise customers read the fine print: Ω, †, ◊, ^, ➤, ■, ††, ×, ≈, § The Big Cash Holiday Sales Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected in-stock new and unused models purchased/leased from participating retailers on or after December 1, 2016. Offers subject to change and may be extended or changed without notice. All pricing includes freight ($1,795), air-conditioning charge (if applicable), tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Financing and lease offers available to qualified customers on approved credit. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. ΩUp to $1,000 Holiday Bonus Cash is available on select new 2016/2017 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Ram or Fiat models at participating dealers from December 1, 2016 to January 3, 2017, inclusive. Bonus Cash will be deducted from the negotiated purchase/lease price after taxes or may be issued as a cheque. Maximum $1,000 Holiday Bonus Cash only available on select Ram 1500 and 2500/3500 models. Offer available at participating dealers. See dealer for complete details and exclusions. †0% purchase financing for 84 months available on select new models to qualified customers on approved credit through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: $30,000 financed at 0% for 84 months equals 182 bi-weekly payments of $165, a total obligation of $30,000 and $0 cost of financing. ◊$12,850 in Total Discounts available on the 2016 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT Ultimate Family Package model based on the following: $11,500 Consumer Cash Discount, $850 Bonus Cash and $500 Holiday Bonus Cash. $6,700 in Total Discounts available on the 2016 Dodge Journey SXT Ultimate Family Package model based on the following: $5,000 Consumer Cash and $500 Holiday Bonus Cash and $1,200 Bonus Cash. See your retailer for complete details. *Consumer Cash is deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Bonus Cash is deducted after taxes. ➤$83 a week is for advertising purposes only and is not an available offer. 1.99% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on select new 2016 models through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Example: 2016 Jeep Cherokee North FWD (24J) with a Purchase Price of $31,777 with a $0 down payment, financed at 1.99% for 96 months equals 208 bi-weekly payments of $165 with a cost of borrowing of $2,623 and a total obligation of $34,399.82. ■Jeep Loyalty/Conquest Bonus Cash up to $1,000 is available on the retail purchase/lease of 2016 Jeep Compass (excludes base 26D, 26G, 25D & 26D models), Patriot (excludes base 26D, 26G, 25D & 26D models), Cherokee (excludes all Sport models), Renegade or Grand Cherokee and is deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. Eligible customers include: Current owners/lessees of a Jeep or any other manufacturer's CUV or SUV. The vehicle must have been owned/leased by the eligible customer and registered in their name on or before December 1, 2016. Proof of ownership/lease agreement will be required. Limit one bonus cash offer up to $1,000 per eligible transaction. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. ††$85 a week is for advertising purposes only and is not an available offer. 0% lease financing for up to 39 months available through SCI Lease Corp. to qualified customers on applicable new 2017 models at participating retailers. SCI provides all credit approval, funding and leasing services. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Example: 2017 Ram 1500 Crew Cab Sport 4x4 (26L) with a Purchase Price of $42,114 leased at 0% for 39 months with a $500 security deposit, $1,999 down payment and first month's payment due at lease inception equals 39 monthly payments of $369 with a cost of borrowing of $0 (including $60.25 PPSA registration) and a total obligation of $16,432.95. Kilometre allowance of 18,000/year. Cost of $0.16 per excess kilometre plus applicable taxes at lease termination. 2017 Ram 1500 Crew Cab Sport 4x4 (26L) models may require order and be subject to a delay. If the lease residual value changes during this period, the lease terms such as down payment and/or monthly payments could also change. See your retailer for complete details. ≈Non-prime financing available on select models on approved credit. 4.99%/6.99% financing available on select 2016 models. Financing examples: Purchase Price of $30,000 with a $1,000 down payment, financed at 4.99%/6.99% over 84 months, equals 182 bi-weekly payments of $189/$202 with a cost of borrowing of $5,418.76/$7,753.86 and a total finance obligation of $34,418.76/$36,753.86. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. ×$1,500 Ram Truck Loyalty/Conquest/Skilled Trades Bonus Cash is available on the retail purchase/lease of 2016/2017 Ram 1500 (excludes Regular Cab), 2015/2016/2017 Ram 2500/3500/Cab & Chassis, or 2015 Ram Cargo Van and is deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. Eligible customers include: 1. Current owners/lessees of a Dodge or Ram Pickup Truck or Large Van or any other manufacturer's Pickup Truck or Large Van. The vehicle must have been owned/leased by the eligible customer and registered in their name on or before December 1, 2016. Proof of ownership/lease agreement will be required. 2. Customers who are skilled tradesmen or are acquiring a skilled trade. This includes Licensed Tradesmen, Certified Journeymen or customers who have completed Apprenticeship Certification. A copy of the Trade Licence/Certification required. 3. Customers who are Basumier Approved service providers. Proof of membership is required. Limit one $1,500 bonus cash offer per eligible truck transaction. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. §Starting From Prices for vehicles shown include Consumer Cash Discounts and do not include upgrades (e.g., paint). Upgrades available for additional cost. ^Based on the latest available competitive information and WardsAuto Middle Cross Utility segmentation. Excludes other vehicles designed and manufactured by FCA US LLC. Based on availability of I-4 and V6 powertrains, front-wheel drive and all-wheel drive, 5 and 7 passenger seating, second-row removable in-floor storage bins, integrated child booster seats, front-passenger in-seat storage and forward fold-flat front passenger seat. ΩBased on 2014 WardsAuto Middle Cross Utility segmentation. *Jeep is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC used under license by FCA Canada Inc. **The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc.

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How video games changed the car game

TECHNOLOGY

Virtual experience getting closer to the real deal

Brooks Harvey
AutoGuide.com

Video games allow people to virtually drive cars that in real life they could never hope to afford. ISTOCK

Video games have revolutionized the way a whole generation interacts with cars.

The Forza racing series of games published by Microsoft, for example, has been particularly successful and is a great example of how automakers are working with video game developers to reach their next generation of consumers — Millennials.

Prior to video games, the average person was unlikely to see cars like the Lamborghini Centenario, Bugatti Veyron or Ford GT in real life, and getting to drive one was even more impossible. But thanks to the growing relationship between automotive companies and video-game developers, now anyone can rip around the Nurburgring, Le Mans or the Australian Outback in an array of multi-million dollar supercars they once had plastered on their wall as a child. It's obviously not the same as driving the real thing, but with the advances in video-game technology, the experience is getting closer and closer to the real deal.

Making cars accessible to everyone

"The video game is extremely important," said Henry Ford III, current marketing manager for Ford Performance, and great grandson of the legendary Henry Ford.

"We want to make our cars, even our supercars, accessible to everyone, and a great way to do that is through the gaming world. We love the guys at Turn 10 and Microsoft because they create games that really simulate real-world driving experiences."

Realism is key for racing game developers, which means they have to work very closely with automakers to ensure the cars are as depicted as realistically as possible, said Turn 10 Studios creative director Dan Greenawalt.

"All of the cars in Forza games are real cars and, as a result, we work with manufacturers from all over the world. That includes the largest automakers in the world like BMW and Audi, to smaller, more specialized manufacturers," he said. "We are in constant contact with our manufacturing partners to ensure we get the latest and greatest cars first in Forza, and also to help us explore their back catalogs for classic cars that our fans love."

Video games are an invaluable asset to other automakers such as BMW, which has been in constant exchange with racing game developers. "BMW has a long tradition of being an integral part in almost all major racing game franchises," said BMW's Tobias Weber, head of entertainment marketing and international product placement.

"It has always been important for the brand to transport its core values of sheer driving pleasure to a young, digital and car-loving audience. In video games, everyone can drive his or her dream car," said Weber. "Also (to drive) models which they probably cannot afford to buy yet, but could later in their life. This excitement for BMW carries on into the real world and video gamers then become BMW fans."

Realism is the key

Tearing around the Australian Outback at 100 m.p.h. in Forza Horizon 3, the Lamborghini Centenario handles challenging terrain surprisingly well.

Its V12 engine screams as it sends mud and sand flying behind it. Its spoiler kicks up when breaking to catch extra downforce, narrowly avoiding crashing into a Ford GT and an Audi R8 on a tight corner. Other than the fact the Centenario is hitting 100-foot jumps with ease, the whole experience feels hyper-realistic. One could almost forget they were playing a video game. The multi-million dollar Centenario is one of the most inaccessible cars in the world, which is compounded by the fact the supercar sold out before it even debuted. So the closest most people will get to driving one will be within the Forza universe.

> **We want to make our cars, even our supercars, accessible to everyone, and a great way to do that is through the gaming world.**
> Henry Ford III

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Offers available from December 1 – 31, 2016. Rogue One: A Star Wars Story © 2016 & TM Lucasfilm Ltd. *Boxing Month Bonus applies to cash purchase only. Maximum $2,000 available on 2017 Altima. **No payments for 90 days applies to any new and previously unregistered 2016 Micra (except S MT S5LG56 AA00)/2016 Versa (except S MT B5RG56 AA00)/2016 Sentra (except S MT C4LG56 AA00)/2016 Rogue (except S FWD Y6RG16 AA00) models financed through Nissan Canada Finance Inc. ("NCF"), on approved credit, between Dec. 7 2016 and Jan. 3, 2017. Offer only applies to finance contracts through NCF with a term of 72 months or less. Bi-monthly payments are deferred for 90 days. Contracts will be extended accordingly. Interest charges (if any) will start to accrue from the beginning of the finance contract and the purchaser will repay principal and interest bimonthly over the term of the contract, but not until 90 days after the contract date. Conditions apply. Offer is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Payments cannot be made on a weekly basis, for advertising purposes only. *Representative monthly lease offer based on a new 2017 Rogue S FWD/2017 Sentra S MT/2017 Pathfinder S 4x2. 0.99%/0.99%/4.75% lease APR for 60/60/60 months equals monthly payments of $258/$170/$381 with $995/$0/$0 down payment, and $0 security deposit. Lease based on a maximum of 20,000 km/year with excess charged at $0.10/km. Total lease obligation is $16,462/$10,222/$22,852. Lease Cash of $750/$1,500/$0 is included in the advertised offer. +Total Standard rate finance incentives of $5,600/$5,000/$6,800 applicable, on approved credit, when financing a new 2016 Rogue SL/2016 Sentra SL/2016 Pathfinder Platinum through Nissan Canada Finance Inc. ("NCF") at standard rates. Total incentives consist of: (i) $5,000/$4,500/$6,000 NCF Standard Rate Finance Cash that will be deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes; and (ii) $600/$500/$800 Loyalty Conquest Cash that will be deducted from the negotiated selling price after taxes. Incentives cannot be combined with lease rates, subvented lease/finance rates or with any other offers. **Loyalty/Conquest Cash("Offer") is available only to eligible customers who, in the 90 days preceding the date of lease/finance of an Eligible New Vehicle (defined below), have leased or financed a 2007 or newer Nissan, Honda, Toyota, Mazda or Hyundai brand vehicle (an "Existing Vehicle") within past 90-days. Eligibility for the Offer will be determined by Nissan Canada Inc. ("NCI") in its sole discretion. Proof of current ownership/ lease/finance contract will be required. Offer is not transferrable or assignable, except to the current owner's spouse or a co-owner/co-lease of the existing vehicle (either of whom must reside within the same household as the intended recipient of the offer). Individuals who purchased/leased a vehicle under a business name can qualify for the program provided that the new deal is not a fleet deal and that the individual can provide valid documentation that they are the registered primary owner of the business. If the eligible customer elects to lease or finance a new and previously unregistered model year 2016 Nissan brand vehicle (excluding NV, Fleet and daily rentals) (an "Eligible New Vehicle") through Nissan Canada Finance Inc. (collectively "NCF"), then he/she will receive a specified amount of NCF Loyalty/Conquest Cash, as follows: (I) 2016 ALTIMA ($2,000); (II) 2016 MICRA/VERSA NOTE/SENTRA ($500); (III) 2016 JUKE/ROGUE ($600); (IV) 2016 PATHFINDER ($800); (V) 2016 TITAN XD ($1,000); (VI) 2017 TITAN HALF TON ($1,000); (VII) 2017 MICRA/VERSA NOTE/SENTRA ($500); (VIII) 2017 ALTIMA ($1,250); (IX) 2017 ROGUE/JUKE ($600); (X) 2017 PATHFINDER ($800). Loyalty/Conquest Dollars will be applied after taxes. Offer is combinable with other NCF incentives, but is not combinable with the Nissan Loyalty program. Offer valid on vehicles delivered between December 1-31, 2016. ▲Models shown $38,524/$37,474/$28,029 /$27,729/$50,404/$49,324 Selling price for a new 2017 Rogue SL (PR00)/ 2016 Rogue SL (BK00)/2017 Sentra SR (RL00)/ 2016 Sentra SR (AA00)/2017 Pathfinder Platinum/2016 Pathfinder Platinum. All Pricing includes Freight and PDE charges ($1,795/$1,795/$1,600/$1,600/$1,795/$1,795) air-conditioning levy ($100), applicable fees, manufacturer's rebate and dealer participation where applicable. License, registration, insurance and applicable taxes are extra. Offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers except stackable trading dollars. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. See your dealer or visit Nissan.ca/Loyalty. See your participating Nissan retailer for complete details. Certain conditions apply. ©2016 Nissan Canada Inc.

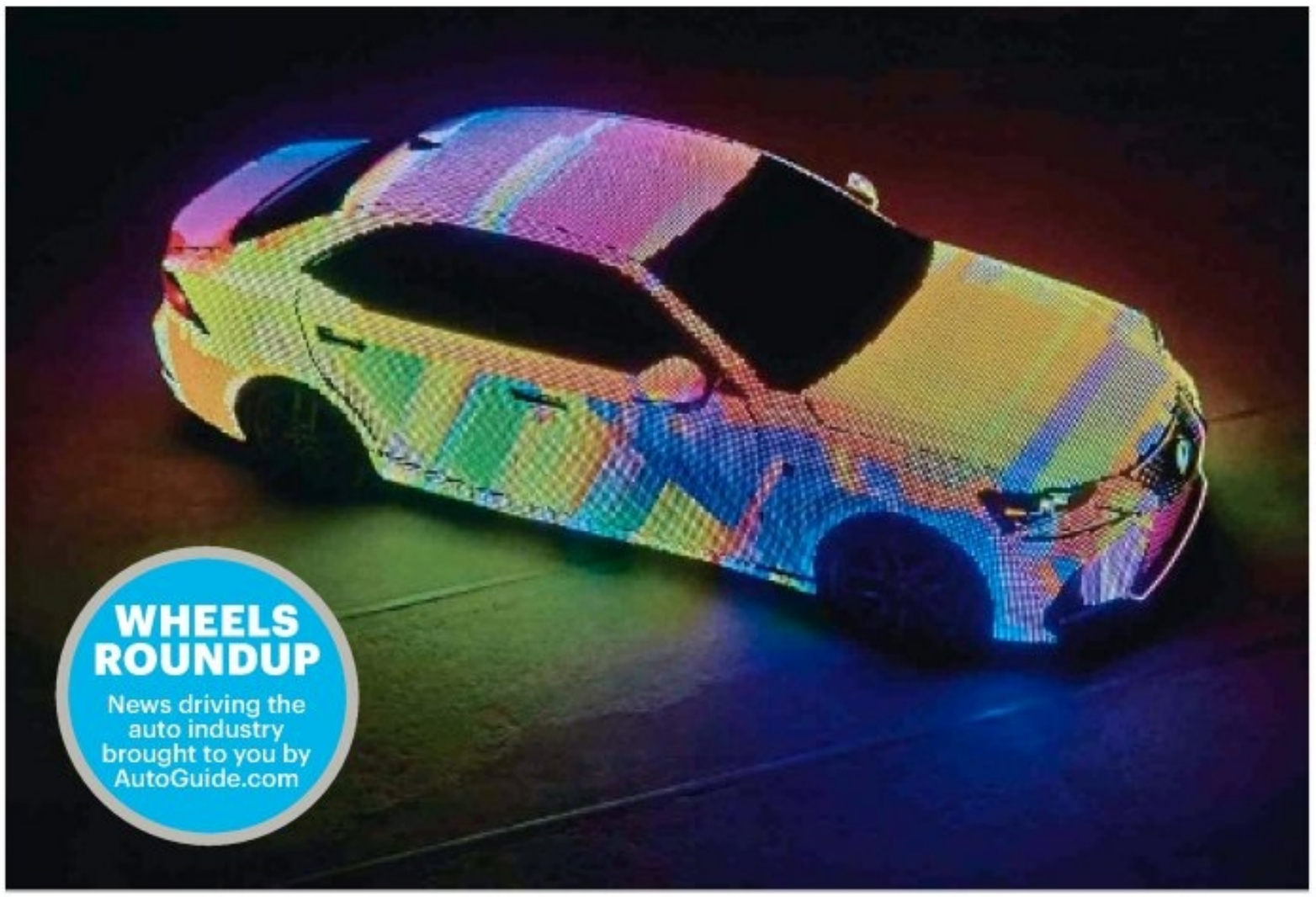
This custom Lexus is literally LIT

IN BRIEF

Alfa Romeo's stunning sedan finally has a price

The 2017 Alfa Romeo Giulia will start from $50,790 including destination in Canada. The base-model Alfa Romeo Giulia is powered by a 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder engine with 280 horsepower and 306 pound-feet of torque while paired to an eight-speed automatic transmission. Standard on the sedan are leather seats, 10-way power front seats including four-way lumbar, bi-xenon headlights with signature LED daytime running lights and LED tail lights, dual exhaust, backup camera with dynamic gridlines and rear park sensors, bright chrome window trim surround, remote proximity sensor with push button start, remote start, seven-inch full-colour TFT display and more.

JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM



WHEELS ROUNDUP

News driving the auto industry brought to you by AutoGuide.com

LED LIGHTS

Lexus stars in music video

Producing 175,000 lumens when fully illuminated, the Lexus LIT IS has just debuted featuring 41,999 programmable LEDs. According to the Japanese luxury automaker, the custom IS was designed to send a bold signal, with the LEDs turning the sedan into a screen capable of broadcasting graphics and videos. The LIT IS is featured in U.K. chart-topping artist Dua Lipa's new music video for her hit song Be the One. To showcase the Lexus IS as a work of art, technology, and design, Lexus teamed up with Vevo to use hand-applied LEDs to help generate colourful, mesmerizing animations in response to gestures and music. If all the LED strips that were used on the LIT IS were placed end to end, it would stretch half a mile in length.

JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

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© 2016 Mercedes-Benz Canada Inc. 2017 C 300 4MATIC Sedan with optional Premium Package ($3,700), Sport Package ($1,500), Active LED High Performance Lighting System ($1,200) and 19" AMG Wheels ($600)/2017 C 300 4MATIC Coupe with optional Premium Package ($3,400), Sport Package ($2,000), Active LED High Performance Lighting System ($350) and 19" AMG Wheels ($500) shown above, total price $63,481/$57,015. Lease and finance offers based on the 2017 C 300 4MATIC Sedan/2017 C 300 4MATIC Coupe are available only through Mercedes-Benz Financial Services on approved credit for a limited time. †Total price of $50,765/$46,381 for advertised vehicle includes MSRP plus all applicable dealer fees including freight/PDI of $2,495, dealer admin fee of $395, air-conditioning levy of $100, EHF tires, filters, batteries of up to $29.70, PPSA of $51.15/$51.15 and OMVIC fee of $10 are due at signing. MSRP starting at $44,000/$48,100. Lease APR of 2.9%/3.9% applies for a term of 45/45 months. Finance APR of 1.9%/2.9% applies for a term of 60/60 months. ††First, second and third month payment waivers are capped for 2017 C-Class models (including AMG) up to a total of $450 (including taxes) for lease programs and up to a total of $650 (including taxes) for finance programs. Vehicle license, insurance, registration, and taxes are extra. Offers may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. See Mercedes-Benz Durham for details or call 1-844-339-7026. Offers end January 2, 2017.

AUTO SHOWS

FCA picks Vegas over Detroit to debut e-car

In a surprising move, Chrysler will not debut a new model at the 2017 Detroit Auto Show. Instead, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) will reveal a new vehicle at the 2017 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, suggesting its debut will be high-tech and possibly tied to its relationship with Google.

JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

CABIN

Land Rover gets into Xmas spirit

Land Rover has created a Christmas cabin that fits in the back of the Discovery Sport SUV. The cleverly designed cabin has enough space for two adults to sleep snugly in temperatures as low as -20 C, Land Rover said. It folds down to fit in the rear of the Discovery Sport, which means even Santa can fit it on his sleigh this Christmas.

JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

TECHNOLOGY

Audi's vehicles can now talk to traffic lights

Audi has officially become the first automaker to launch vehicle-to-infrastructure technology in the U.S. The Audi Connect Prime feature is called Traffic Light Information and is currently available on select 2017 Audi A4, Q7, and Allroad models. Traffic Light Information enables the cars to communicate with the infrastructure in select cities and metropolitan areas across the U.S. Cars equipped with the feature receive real-time signal information from the advanced traffic management system. JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

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metro SPORTS

"Poopfest. It's terrible": Seattle Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman is tired of Thursday night games

Giovinco revisits turf war

TORONTO FC

Striker raises issue of sharing BMO Field pitch with Argonauts

The issue of Toronto FC sharing a stadium with the CFL's Argonauts, which had seemingly been put to bed, has returned to the forefront just days after the MLS team's painful penalty shootout loss to Seattle in the MLS Cup final.

And it was Toronto's marquee player who raised the issue.

Star striker Sebastian Giovinco told the club's end-of-season media availability Tuesday that while he was physically OK, changing "environmental conditions" had affected his play in the final minutes of the last three home games.

Pressed on the issue, he was more specific — saying he had analysed this season and concluded that unlike last year when he excelled at home, his best games in the 2016 playoffs were away from BMO Field.

"Maybe the only factor that may have contributed somehow in changing since last year is that now this year another team was playing in BMO Field," he said through an interpreter. "That may have contributed to changing something on the pitch."

Giovinco had a goal and two assists in four home playoff games. Away from home, he had three goals and two assists in two outings.

The 29-year-old Italian said he had never had a single episode of cramps in four years prior to having them in three of Toronto's last four home games.

"With all other factors being equal, something must have changed somewhere else," he said.

Giovinco had no answers. "I'm no gardener," he said with a laugh.

Giovinco stressed he was not using the pitch to make excuses. He said he was simply explaining why he had to leave game early and had already raised the issue with team management.

But in doing so publicly, he opened a Pandora's box especially after captain Michael Bradley and coach Greg Vanney had repeatedly praised the work of the BMO Field grounds crew in recent weeks. He also gave new ammunition to TFC supporters unhappy at sharing their prized pitch with a team of CFL heavyweights.

After his pitch observations, the five-foot-four Giovinco was quickly lambasted by several CFL players.

Argos defensive back Matt Black tweeted: "#Giovinco, crying causes dehydration. Maybe that's why cramping took out of the Championship game!"

"That's some serious mental weakness...dude needs some help," tweeted Saskatchewan Roughriders receiver Rob Bagg.

Toronto FC president Bill Manning acknowledged the field, which he described as very sandy, "wasn't ideal," and cited the Dec. 10 timing and recent Grey Cup as not helping.

"He's a guy that relies on fractions of a second and how a ball bounces," Manning said of Giovinco. THE CANADIAN PRESS

#Giovinco, both my hamstrings would have to cramp off the bone before I took myself out the championship game #CutFromDifferentCloth.
Argos defensive back Matt Black

Dealing with cramps, Toronto FC forward Sebastian Giovinco was substituted in the 103rd minute of the MLS Cup final against the Seattle Sounders at BMO Field on Saturday night. COLE BURSTON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

HE'S A KEEPER

- Clint Irwin was selected by Atlanta United in the expansion draft on Tuesday but was quickly reacquired by TFC via trade.
- To get its No. 1 goalkeeper back, Toronto sent reserve fullback Mark Bloom and general allocation money to Atlanta.

AWARDS

Oleksiak wins Lou Marsh Trophy

You could excuse Penny Oleksiak for being a little distracted during her high school law class on Tuesday.

After winning four Olympic medals last summer in Rio, she knew she was in the mix for the Lou Marsh Trophy as Canada's athlete of the year. Oleksiak's teacher let her check her phone during class and the 16-year-old swimmer eventually got the news she was looking for.

Penny Oleksiak GETTY IMAGES

Oleksiak was named the winner of the Toronto Star award, selected annually by a panel of sports journalists from across the country.

"It was pretty exciting when I found out," Oleksiak said on a conference call. "One of my teachers, Mr. McAlpine, is across the hallway. He was like freaking out after class when he found out. So that was fun."

It was the latest accomplishment in what has been a dream year for the Toronto swimmer.

Oleksiak, who won Olympic gold in the 100-metre freestyle, served as Canadian flag-bearer at the closing ceremony at Maracana Stadium. She added four more medals at the short-course world championship this month in Windsor.

"I think I really learned that I'm stronger than I think," Oleksiak said of her season. "I want to say that just because going into Rio, I definitely had my doubts about myself. I didn't think I'd be able to even get into finals.

"I think I proved to myself that I trained pretty hard last year and that I was able to exceed expectations."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DOPING

Sliding worlds pulled from Russia

Avoiding what would have almost certainly been a widely boycotted world championships, international officials pulled this season's biggest bobsled and skeleton competition out of Russia on Tuesday after a number of sliders said they would not compete in a nation so enveloped in a doping scandal.

The decision was immediately praised by sliders and decried by Russian officials.

A new site — Germany and the U.S. are potential hosts — will likely be announced in the coming days. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"The process probably isn't going to be clean or pretty, but this needs to be fixed."
Skeleton racer Matt Antoine

IN BRIEF

Everton downs Arsenal on 86th-minute goal

Ashley Williams scored an 86th-minute winner as Everton came from behind to beat title-chasing Arsenal 2-1 at Goodison Park on Tuesday.

Arsenal's title credentials took a hit with sloppy defending at the end of both halves, with Seamus Coleman heading home unmarked for the equalizer in the 44th minute and Williams rising highest at a corner to glance in the winner. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOCCER

Plastic-bag Messi meets the real deal

Murtaza Ahmadi, 6, poses for a photo with Lionel Messi and Barcelona. GETTY IMAGES

Nearly a year after an image of him wearing an improvised Lionel Messi jersey made from a plastic bag went viral, Murtaza Ahmadi finally met his idol.

The six-year-old Afghan boy made a special trip to Qatar, where Messi was with his Barcelona teammates to play a friendly match against Al Ahli on Tuesday.

Murtaza walked out onto the field with the five-time world player of the year before the match. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FINALISTS

- Sidney Crosby
- Andre De Grasse
- Brooke Henderson
- Aurelie Rivard
- Milos Raonic
- Derek Drouin

Pats stand by their rookies

NFL

Mitchell a trusty target for Brady, Jones struggling

Patriots wide receiver Malcolm Mitchell comes down with a touchdown catch in front of Jets cornerback Darrelle Revis on Nov. 27 in East Rutherford, N.J. BILL KOSTROUN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Under Bill Belichick, the Patriots have become masters at culling more diamonds than duds from the NFL draft. This summer was no exception despite New England drafting without a first-round pick as part of its "Deflategate" punishment.

New England picked Alabama cornerback and punt returner Cyrus Jones in the second round. Then, a few rounds later they went with another Southeastern Conference-tested prospect, Georgia receiver Malcolm Mitchell.

Both are having memorable seasons as the Patriots wind toward the playoffs following a 30-23 win over the Ravens Monday night. But only Mitchell is producing the kind of memories worth savouring.

Mitchell has become a reliable target for Tom Brady, picking up the slack nicely for receiver Danny Amendola, who missed his first game of the season with an ankle injury. Mitchell had four catches for 41 yards, including a six-yard touchdown reception in the second quarter that helped put the Patriots up 16-0.

He's posted all four of his touchdowns this season over the past four weeks. Not bad for a player whose season seemed in peril after he suffered a gruesome-looking left elbow injury during New England's pre-season opener.

"It says a lot for a rookie to be playing his best in December," Brady said. "It speaks to what he's all about. He's worked his butt off since he got here and he's put himself in a great position. With Danny getting hurt he's gotten more opportunity, and we're going to need it."

Meanwhile, after struggling to hang on to the ball during kick returns, Jones' issues continued against Baltimore. He had his fifth fumble of the season in the second half, setting up Baltimore's first touchdown two plays later. Jones wore the disappointment on his face as he trudged toward the sideline following the turnover, a reminder that he still needs work on an issue he thought he was past.

But coach Bill Belichick put the onus on the entire team to be better at ball security and eliminating mistakes, noting special teams captain Matt Slater's fumbled kickoff and Brady's interception Monday.

"We turned it over three times and all of those players and all of the other players — we've got to do a better job of it," Belichick said. "We've got to coach it better. We've got to handle it better."

Despite his ongoing issues, Jones still has a lot of support in the locker room.

"You're going to have some bad plays out there," safety Devin McCourty said. "You've just got to keep playing. We'll continue to count on him, keep on making sure his confidence stays high."

Mitchell said overcoming mistakes was the biggest key against the Ravens. "We played as a team, even when we dealt with adversity," he said. "We still stuck together, stayed focused, and did enough to win the game." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

LeBron pins down his beef with Trump

LeBron James GETTY IMAGES

If you take a close look at LeBron James' recent cover photo for Sports Illustrated's Sportsperson of the Year award, a safety pin can be spotted on the NBA superstar's lapel.

No, James isn't suffering some sort of wardrobe malfunction. Since last month's presidential election, the safety pin has become a symbol of solidarity with those Americans who fear they'll be disenfranchised by a Donald Trump presidency. The pin is intended to show that the wearer is a safe person to turn to.

James campaigned for Democrat Hillary Clinton in the days before the vote. During a recent road trip, James opted to stay elsewhere than the team's official Trump-branded hotel in New York. He called the decision a personal preference. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Hazing ritual banned by MLB

That baseball hazing ritual of dressing up rookies as Wonder Woman, Hooters Girls and Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders is now banned.

Major League Baseball created an Anti-Hazing and Anti-Bullying Policy that covers the practice. As part of the sport's new labour deal, set to be ratified by both sides Tuesday, the players' union agreed not to contest it. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ski cross medals for Canada

Canada's freestlye ski team continued its early success on the World Cup ski cross circuit this season, as Marielle Thompson won a gold medal and Brady Leman claimed a silver on Tuesday.

Thompson, from North Vancouver, B.C., picked up her second gold in three races this season. She was second out of the gate in the big final but quickly pulled into first for the rest of the race. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Comforting Mushroom Cheddar Chowder

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Even mushroom skeptics will love this creamy, vitamin-rich soup.

Ready in 30 minutes
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 25 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1/4 cup unsalted butter
- 1 large shallot, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, diced
- 1 carrot, diced
- 1 lb mushrooms, sliced (we like to use a mix of cremini and portabello)
- 2 cups vegetable stock
- 3 Tbsp spelt flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Pinch of pepper
- 1/2 cup grated cheddar cheese
- 2 Tbsp sour cream or Greek yogurt

Directions

1. In large pot over medium heat, melt half the butter. Add shallot, garlic and carrot and sauté until crisp-tender. Pour in half the stock, then add mushrooms, reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes.

2. In a small saucepan, melt rest of the butter. Gradually add flour, whisking until smooth. Add milk and bring to a boil, then immediately reduce heat and continue whisking until mixture thickens a bit, 2 to 3 minutes. Add to soup.

3. Stir in remaining stock. Season with salt and pepper. Remove pot from heat and, using an immersion blender, blend soup until desired consistency.

4 Ladle into bowls and serve with a helping of grated cheddar, dollop of sour cream or Greek yogurt.

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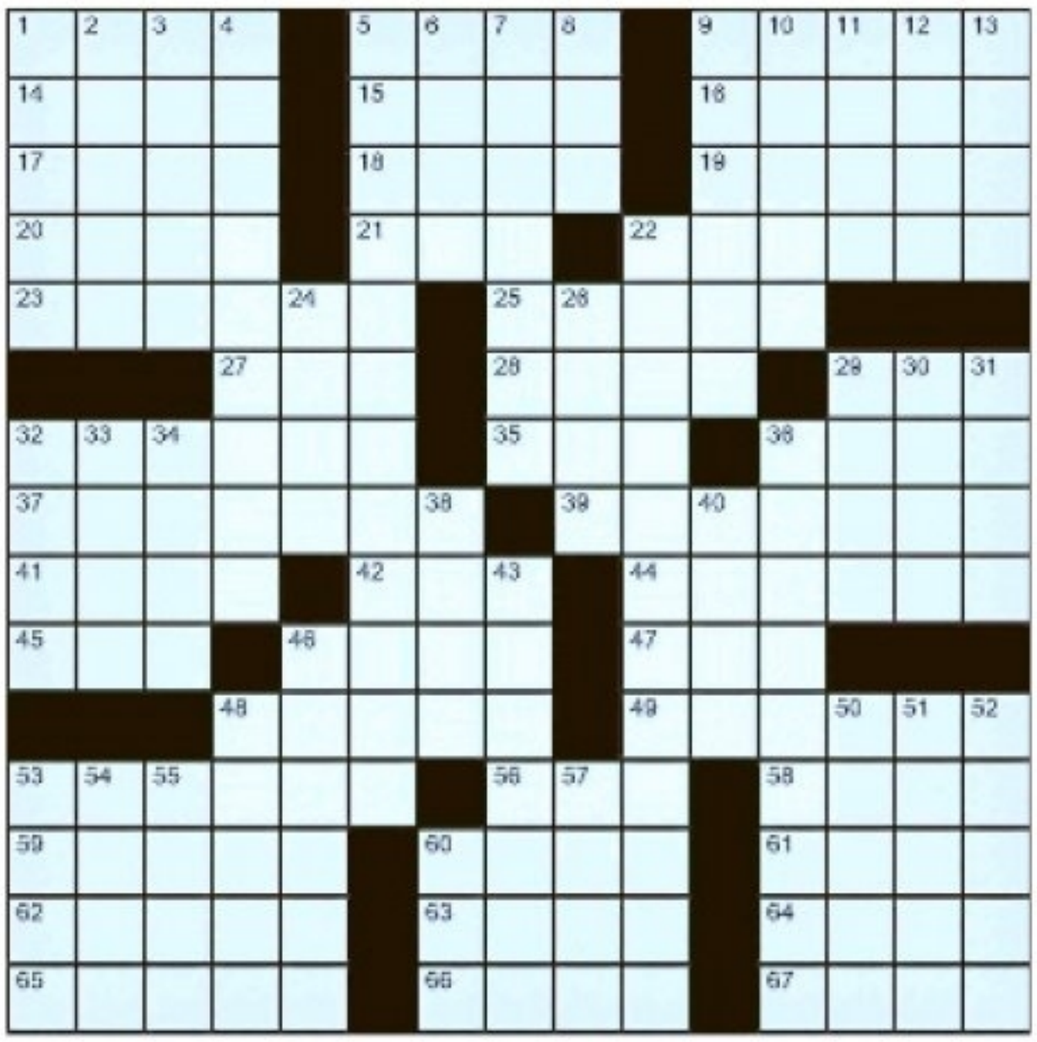
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Marvel Comics supervillain, _ the Conqueror
5. Santa's gifts carrier
9. Sir Newton
14. Roman love god
15. Moisturizer ingredient
16. Figure out
17. Appraise
18. 'W' in WSJ
19. Muggy
20. Avoir's cohort
21. Richie, to Joanie
22. Grate
23. Austria's capital
25. Pastes
27. Driver's _.
28. Chemist's table salt
29. Stephen of "The Crying Game" (1992)
32. Hard blow sound
35. Cheers _, 1895
36. Twenty = Two _
37. Stovetop parts
39. 'Knee' and 'knot' both begin with one, _ _
41. Ripened
42. Mr. Pacino's
44. NHL team in Edmonton
45. Mr. Howard
46. Pesky fly
47. Compass dir.
48. 1999 flick in which Alanis Morissette plays God
49. Big name in fine art in Canada (Where the masterpiece at #50-Down went to the highest bidder)
53. _ lights (Hollywood premiere illuminators)
56. One plus One's answer
58. Scottish singer Donovan's actress daughter Ms. Skye
59. On _ _ (Winning)
60. Boyfriend
61. _, _ Hubbard (Scientology founder)
62. Novel's name
63. "_ fair in love..."
64. Gladiator's 2051
65. Discharge
66. Actor, Dick Van _
67. Slitherer's noises

DOWN
1. Alex _ ("Grey's Anatomy" character)
2. Violin-making family
3. _-Dame Cathedral, in Paris
4. Where Nuuk is the capital city
5. #9-Down is part of the what in the Canadian Rockies in Alberta?: 2 wds.
6. Wing-like
7. Fellow's fragrance
8. Ms. Ripa, to pals
9. Mount _ (Peak depicted in the circa 1926 oil on canvas at #50-Down)
10. Turns, as milk
11. _ mater
12. Keen
13. Relinquish control
22. Firm such as #49-Across: 2 wds.
24. Kind
26. Glasgow gal
29. Mr. Auberjonois
30. _'acte (Intermission)
31. Inquires
32. Ski lift
33. Men's label, _ Boss
34. Songbird variety
36. Made-for-TV movies
38. Hip poetry show
40. Extra's delivery on set
43. Distinguished
46. Medieval 'mug'
48. Barbie and Ken
50. As per #49-Across... Mountain _ (Group of Seven artist Lawren Harris' painting which recently sold for a record-breaking $11.21 million)
51. Organic compounds
52. German filmmaker Ms. Riefenstahl's
53. Fill, as hunger
54. Li'l math course
55. Automatic
57. Stroll
60. U2 song

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Today your focus is on home and family. If you get a chance, you will prefer to cocoon at home and hide from the busy world out there.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You have a need to communicate with others today, which is why it's a good day to talk to siblings, relatives and neighbors. It's time to plug in to the local gossip scene.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
If shopping today, you will be more emotional than usual about what you choose to buy. Yes, this could lead to retail therapy.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Today the Moon is in your sign, which will make you more emotional than usual about practically anything. However, it also improves your luck.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Work alone or behind the scenes today, because that will make you feel better. You want to pull in and hide somewhat. Take a breather from your busy social life.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
A conversation with a female acquaintance might be meaningful today. In fact, this conversation might actually prompt you to modify or change your future goals.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Personal details about your private life may become public today. Be aware of this in case you have to do some damage control.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Take a trip or do something different today, because you need a change of scenery. At least change your daily routine. Visit an exotic restaurant.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
) Today you might want to take care of loose details about inheritances and shared property, because that would be appropriate. (But you won't want to let go of something.)

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Be prepared to go more than halfway when dealing with others, because the Moon is opposite your sign today. This simply requires a little tolerance and compromise.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Make an extra effort today to do something to help you feel better organized. Put your papers in neat little piles; clean out the backseat of your car. Do something.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a playful, flirtatious and prankish day! Enjoy fun times with others, especially younger people. You might extend an invitation to a social event to a boss.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

			2			1		
	6			9			3	
2		5	7			9		
						8		1
	1						4	
3		7						
		1			7	6		8
	8			6			5	
		9			5			

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1	7	6	4	2	8	3	9	5
5	9	8	6	3	7	4	2	1
9	2	4	7	1	3	6	5	8
7	8	5	2	4	6	9	1	3
3	6	1	8	9	5	2	7	4
6	4	7	1	8	2	5	3	9
2	1	3	5	6	9	8	4	7
8	5	9	3	7	4	1	6	2

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